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PART XLII.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF TURKEY.

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Turkey.

Part XLII.

No. 1.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 1.)

(No. 58. Political.)

My Lord, *Salonica, September* 18, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, herewith inclosed, to your Lordship copy of a despatch, with an inclosure, which I addressed on the 15th instant to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, on the subject of the alleged cruel and arbitrary treatment of Greek priests by the Ottoman military authorities in Macedonia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 1.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Salonica, September* 15, 1879.

THE Greek Archbishop of Salonica has communicated to me the inclosed translated copy of a letter which he has addressed to Safvet Pasha, the Commander-in-chief of the troops in Macedonia, complaining of the degrading and cruel manner in which a Greek priest, Athanassius by name, has been treated by the military authorities of Caraferia.

Upon my calling the attention of the Governor-General to the circumstances, I was informed by him that the priest in question has been condemned by the Medjliss of Caraferia to three years' imprisonment for having harboured and otherwise assisted some members of a band of robbers, who, in a recent encounter with a Turkish military detachment, killed a Captain and wounded several soldiers.

It seems, however, from further inquiries which I have made, that the priest has been convicted solely upon the evidence of two soldiers, who testified to having observed two of the brigands with whom the troops were fighting take refuge in the priest's house.

I may add that Hassan Bey, the Procurator-General, told me, upon my calling his attention to the case, that in his opinion the priest, Athanassius, has been wrongfully condemned by the Medjliss of Caraferia; and that, although he disapproves of the proceedings of this Medjliss, he can take no action in the matter, as it has been transferred to the Military Court of Salonica.

The alleged cruel treatment of this priest by the military authorities has hurt the religious feelings and excited the indignation of the local Greek community; and, as I have been assured by the Greek Archbishop that other priests in the villages of his diocese have been treated in an arbitrary and degrading manner by those authorities, I would respectfully suggest that the Porte should be moved to cause official inquiries

to be made by Tahsin Bey, the Inspector of Tribunals, into the circumstances complained of by the Archbishop in his letter to the Commander-in-chief.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 1.

The Greek Archbishop of Salonica to Safvet Pasha, Commander-in-chief in Macedonia.

(Translation.)
Excellency,

I RECEIVED with due respect your Excellency's two Teskerehs of the 19th and 31st July last, o.s., in which it is mentioned that in consequence of a petition from Pappa Athanassius, of the village of Corino, deposing that he was beaten by some soldiers whilst attending to his religious exercises in his church, and afterwards forced by them to remain for several hours in the sun, the Military Court has decided to investigate the matter, and demands that the priest in question, whose request to withdraw from the prosecution of the case cannot be admitted, should be sent by me to the authorities; and stating that in case the priest does not make his appearance he will be considered and treated as a "slanderer."

On receiving your Excellency's first communication, I hastened to summon the priest Athanassius to Salonica, but was informed that he had already been arrested and taken to Veria; and I now learn, with deep sorrow, that he has been conducted from Veria to Salonica, iron-bound, together with three other individuals, and after having been led through the "Agora" in a scandalous and scornful manner, has been cast in the criminal prison.

As I was preparing to communicate the case to your Excellency, and convey to your Excellency the expression of my profound sorrow at these occurrences, I unexpectedly, and with perplexity, received yesterday evening your Excellency's second communication, in which you repeat your demand that the above-mentioned priest should be immediately summoned by me to Salonica. As I presume, from the tenor of this communication, that your Excellency has no knowledge whatever of the real merits of the case, and of the scandalous demonstrations with which it has been conducted, and which have deeply impressed the minds of all the Christians, and as your Excellency is fully aware that according to the existing laws of the "High Dovlet" (Government) no one can be incarcerated without previous trial and sentence, and more still, that no person invested with a sacred office can be made to pass through the public streets at noon iron-bound, as has happened to the priest Athanassius, against whom, from what I gather from Teskerehs, no criminal suspicion exists, but merely a surmise, I am confident that your wisdom and high sense of justice will fully disapprove of these occurrences.

Expecting a just solution of the case, I consider it my duty once more to formally protest before your Excellency against the scandalous apprehension and incarceration, without trial and sentence, of the above-mentioned Pappa Athanassius.

No. 2.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 1.)

(No. 66. Political.) *Canea, Crete, September* 22, 1879.
My Lord,

THE military force which has garrisoned Crete since its pacification has consisted of ten battalions of troops, all Rédif, with the exception of one battalion of Nizam. These battalions varied in number from 500 to 800 men. They have suffered a great deal from privation and disease, fever and small-pox having seriously thinned their ranks during last autumn and winter, and the hospitals being unprovided with quinine and other necessary medicines. The diet of the Turkish soldier, which used to be so good and abundant, has latterly greatly deteriorated, both in quantity and quality, meat being sometimes served out to the troops only once or twice a week, and I am informed that the contract for supplying them with meat is about to expire, and is not likely to be renewed, the late contractor having heavy claims on the military chest.

During the past week four of the Redif battalions have been conveyed to Constantinople and Beyrout, for the purpose of being disbanded. Four Nizam battalions have taken their place, one belonging to the 1st Corps d'Armée, or Imperial Guard, whose head-quarters are Constantinople, two from the 2nd Corps d'Armée, recruited in the Adrianople Vilayet, and the fourth forming part of the 3rd Corps d'Armée, recruited in the Vilayet of Monastir. Each of these new battalions averages about 500 men. Lieutenant-General Nedjib Pasha, late Chief of the Staff in Constantinople, and one of the most distinguished Turkish Generals, has just arrived to take command of the troops in Crete, which may now be reckoned at between 5,000 and 6,000 men.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 3.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 1.)

(No. 231.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, September* 26, 1879.

THE nominal list of persons professing the Jewish religion who are to be admitted to Roumanian citizenship and to the full exercise of civil and political rights has been published.

This list accompanies the Government proposal, and is to be voted at the same time as the amendment of Article 7 of the Constitution.

The persons included in this list are classified according to their qualifications under the following categories:—

1. Jews who have served or are actually serving in the army—		
a. Officers, &c.	10	
b. Those who have served in 1877–78	202	
c. Those who have served in the Reserve	622	
d. Those who have been transferred	29	
e. Families of those who have died in the service	20	
		883
2. Jews who have received diplomas from the University		44
3. Jews who have received diplomas from foreign universities, but exercise their professions in the country		47
4. Jews who have founded public institutions		2
5. Jews who have commercial or manufacturing establishments		85
6. Jews who have published anything in the Roumanian language		13
Total		1,074

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 4.

Sir J. Walsham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 1.)

(No. 64. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, September* 30, 1879.

THE Russian Representatives at Paris and Athens, Prince Orloff and M. de Sabourow, accompanied by the Russian Ambassador here, have had interviews with Prince Bismarck since his return to Berlin, and dined with him the day before yesterday.

The object of their visit has not yet transpired, but it is supposed that, besides being authorized to assure Prince Bismarck that Russia is desirous of seeing the relations between the two countries placed on a better footing, they may also have been charged with the task of bringing about a meeting between the Chancellor and Prince Gortchacow, who is still in Germany.

They may, of course, have come to Berlin to consult Prince Bismarck about possibility of Prince Gortchacow retiring from office, and the changes which would then take place.

Both, I understand, have recently come from Livadia, where they had probably gone to attend meeting of high Russian officials mentioned in Mr. Plunkett's telegram No. 138.

The late visit of Prince Orloff to Copenhagen seems to have been attended with considerable mystery.

Prince Bismarck will, I believe, leave for the country on Friday next at latest.

No. 5.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Major Trotter.

(Secret.) *Foreign Office, October* 1, 1879, 4·25 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

A DIFFERENCE has arisen in the Asiatic Frontier Commission as to the part of the boundary to the west and south-west of Karaourgan, the Russian Commissioner wishing to push the frontier further to the west than the British Commissioner thinks right.

If you should learn anything of Russian proceedings in those parts indicating a tendency to take military possession, you should report at once.

But make no inquiries that would attract observation, as it is not desirable to give too much importance to the question.

No. 6.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 1, 4·15 P.M.)

(No. 675.) *Therapia, October* 1, 1879, 12·15 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING from Sir H. Layard, dated Baelbe [*sic*], the 29th September :—

"With reference to your telegram of 28th, please inform Sultan that I am most grateful for the magnificent reception given me at Damascus and elsewhere in Syria. The incident to which you refer was that as I entered Damascus the troops which had been drawn up to receive me were suddenly withdrawn as I approached, and went off in another direction, the officer in command [? alleg] ing that sun had set. This had a very bad effect, as it was looked upon as an insult to Vali, between whom and the Mushir there is a misunderstanding. On my departure, the Commander-in-chief endeavoured to make up for what had occurred by excessive civility, and I hope that, as far as I am concerned, the incident will be forgotten."

No. 7.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 1, 4·45 P.M.)

(No. 676.) *Therapia, October* 1, 1879, 1·15 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

REPRESENTATIVES of all the Signatory Powers except myself have received instructions to recommend Porte to accept Greek Declaration telegraphed in my No. 663.

The Porte has proposed to debate following words at the conclusion, instead of those contained in the Greek propositions :—

"The two Parties are agreed to accept as point of departure and as basis the indications of the Protocol 13, which will be taken freely ("librement") into discussion."

French Ambassador, who has been acting as intermediary, rejects this wording, and insists on Greek Declaration *tel quel*.

The day is not yet fixed for the next meeting.

No. 8.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 1, 5 P.M.)

(No. 677. Secret.) *Therapia, October* 1, 1879, 1·30 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

COUNT ZICHY had an audience of the Sultan on Monday. His Excellency said that he found His Majesty apparently in great perplexity at the meetings of

Prince Bismarck and Count Andrassy and of your Lordship and M. Waddington, and went so far as to ask Ambassador whether he thought meeting at Dieppe could have any object hostile to Turkey. Count Zichy reassured His Majesty to the best of his ability.

With regard to other meeting, his Excellency said he would tell me alone secretly that, being authorized by his Government to do so, he had informed the Sultan that the alliance of the three Emperors was at an end, and that an exchange of views had taken place between Prince Bismarck and Count Andrassy, resulting in an understanding having the Treaty of Berlin for its base, and the danger of Slav aggression as its motive.

No. 9.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke.

(No. 74. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 1, 1879.

IN reply to your despatch No. 82 of the 16th instant, I transmit to you herewith a copy of a telegraphic instruction which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Consul in Kurdistan requesting him to report home any proceedings on the part of the Russian military authorities on the Asiatic frontier of Turkey which may have a tendency to prejudge the tracing of the frontier-line in the neighbourhood of Karaourgan.

You are authorized to transmit to Major Trotter a sketch illustrative of the question at issue in the manner you propose.

It is, however, extremely desirable that nothing should be done by Major Trotter to attract attention or give increased importance to this question, as the result will certainly be to render the Russian Government suspicious and less disposed to accept a fair and reasonable solution.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 10.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Major Trotter.

(No. 31. Secret.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 1, 1879.

A DIFFERENCE of opinion has arisen at Constantinople between the Russian, Turkish, and British Military Commissioners appointed to determine the line of frontier between the Russian and Turkish territories in Asia, as settled by Article LVIII of the Treaty of Berlin, and by the Agreement signed by Count Schouvaloff and myself on the 12th July, 1878.

The difficulty refers to the portion of the boundary to the west and south-west of Karaourgan, where the Russian Commissioner is endeavouring to push the frontier farther to the west than he is thought to be entitled to do by Colonel Clarke, the British Commissioner.

I have instructed Colonel Clarke to place himself in communication with you, and to furnish you with a sketch illustrative of the question at issue.

Should any information reach you with regard to Russian proceedings in those parts indicating a tendency to take military possession, I should wish you to report the fact to me immediately : but as it is very undesirable that undue importance should be given to the question, you must be careful that your inquiries are so conducted as not to attract observation.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 11.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 546.) *Foreign Office, October 1, 1879.*

Sir,

IN speaking yesterday with Count Schouvaloff on the subject of the new Technical Commission which it has been resolved to appoint for the purpose of inspecting and reporting upon localities in the neighbourhood of Silistria, where it is proposed that the frontier shall be drawn, I mentioned to his Excellency that it was probable that we should appoint a military engineer, as we consider our military engineers fully as competent as any other engineers.

Count Schouvaloff replied that he believed the Russian Government was likely to take the same course, and that, in asking for a Technical Commission, their principal object had been to secure that the subject should be reconsidered by persons who were not pledged to a previously formed opinion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 12.

Mr. Macdonell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 2.)

(No. 380. Very Confidential.) *Rome, September 17, 1879.*

My Lord,

IN a conversation I have had with Count Maffei, he has led me to infer that some sort of understanding exists between Italy and France touching the Greek question. It appears that, when in Paris, M. Waddington assured Count Maffei that France was determined to adhere to the stipulation of the Treaty, and would support to the letter the claim of Greece to the line of frontier then recommended. The Count said that the interests of Italy in this question were identical with those of France; that both countries are bound by the formal public declarations made by M. Waddington and Signor Cairoli, and which admit of no change in the line suggested at Berlin as offering the only secure frontier for Greece.

The exclusion of Janina was out of the question, as its position and its Greek population would leave the task unaccomplished, and give just cause to the Greeks for further reclamation.

In answer to my observation, that so important a concession on the part of Turkey might temporarily quiet the exigencies of the Greeks, but would not satisfy their ambitious views, he said that the Powers might give Turkey in exchange a moral pledge that the aspirations of Greece should be definitely limited to the provisions laid down in the 13th Protocol of the Treaty.

Count Maffei appeared inclined to think that if Italy and France adhered firmly to their present course of action with regard to Greece it might, perhaps, induce Her Majesty's Government to countenance their views; but I ventured to point out that since Signor Depretis had admitted the necessity of modifying the proposition of the Congress as regards Greece, your Lordship might not feel disposed to adopt the views of Italy, which are now prompted by other motives than the interest of the Greeks.

I asked Count Maffei if, in the event of Turkey opposing a refusal, he thought Italy and France would have recourse to coercive measures? He replied that he felt confident that a moral support would be sufficient to strengthen the hands of the Greeks if needed.

He evidently seemed desirous to impress me with the great importance the Italian Government attaches to the Greek question.

Meanwhile, no instructions have as yet been sent to Count Corti, nor is it likely that his Excellency will receive any until this Government is satisfied as to the course France intends to pursue.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 13.

Mr. Macdonell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 2.)

(No. 385.) *Rome, September 22, 1879.*

My Lord,

I CALLED Count Maffei's attention to a report which had reached me, that the Italian Government had, at the request of the Russian Representative, instructed their Commissioner to support the Russian view in regard to the military road across the Sandjak of Sophia.

Count Maffei repeated what he has said on former similar occasions, that the Italian Government had no direct interest in the questions discussed by the various Commissions, and that the instructions to their Commissioners were to vote, if possible, with the majority. In the present instance, the Russian Chargé d'Affaires had urged him to instruct Colonel Orero to support his Russian colleague's views, and he had done so; but, in his reply, the Italian Commissioner expressed himself strongly in favour of the said military road, and the Italian Government had subsequently instructed him to vote as he thought proper. Since then, Count Maffei added, Colonel Orero had informed him that the English and French Commissioners appeared to attach less importance to the proposed right of way.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 14.

Mr. Macdonell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 2.)

(No. 389. Most Confidential.) *Rome, September 26, 1879.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 385 of the 22nd instant, reporting a conversation I had with Count Maffei regarding the proceedings of the Italian Representative on the Bulgarian Boundary Commission, I think it my duty to inform your Lordship of some further remarks made by the Count on that occasion.

He perceived with regret, he said, that, notwithstanding the positive assurances he has already given to Sir A. Paget, Her Majesty's Government continue under the impression that the Italian Commissioners have been directed to support the views of Russia in the various questions in dispute; and he deemed it, therefore, advisable to request me to state distinctly to your Lordship that such is not, nor has it ever been, the case.

The Italian Commissioners have on every occasion been instructed to discuss the various questions in a spirit of equity, keeping in view that the object of the Italian Government is the maintenance of the integrity of the Ottoman Empire, and the adoption of such measures as may insure order and tranquillity.

In referring to Signor Vernoni's attitude, he thought no other member of the Commission had a more varied knowledge of Turkey, and of the requirements of its people, especially in her European provinces; and his opinion, therefore, merited some consideration. He admitted that Signor Vernoni may at times over-estimate his opinion; but, on the other hand, he had reason to believe that Mr. Michell was rather dictatorial, and not an easy colleague to deal with ("mauvais coucheur").

I said I had no doubt that the Italian Commissioners may have endeavoured to fulfil their task to the best of their judgment, but I felt sure he must admit that it was, to say the least, strange that they should have been constantly found voting with their Russian colleagues. Since he had broached the subject, I thought it right to inform him of a report which is at present current, that, at the meeting of the Emperors at Alexandrovka, the Emperor Alexander expressed the hope that the German Emperor would in future direct his Commissioners to give the same support to Russia which the Italian members did. Apart, therefore, from the fact that the Italians and Russians were constantly in a minority, the above report, if correct, justified the belief that the Italian Agents were not guided by their judgments alone.

Furthermore, I added, it has generally been remarked by my colleagues that there had lately been a marked exchange of civilities ("échange de bons procédés") between Italy and Russia. This had no doubt led to the belief, not only on the part

of England, but also of other Powers, that Italy was unduly courting the friendship of Russia in a somewhat transparent manner. I mentioned the high decorations conferred on the Russian General and his staff at the late manœuvres; the flattering and friendly speeches exchanged on that occasion; the valuable portrait with which the King honoured the General; and various other friendly demonstrations, which, however insignificant, must have been prompted by other motives than those of a platonic sympathy and friendship.

In answer to his remark, that I could not for a moment entertain the absurd idea that Italy was seeking an alliance with Russia, I said I certainly did not think the Government would imperil Italy's position by attempting to enter into so senseless a scheme; but what I ventured to suspect was, that Italy had some object in seeking an uncompromising *entente* with Russia, which was to be regretted, as she only incurred the risk of forfeiting the goodwill and friendship of her more sincere well-wishers. Every successive Government in this country, I observed, think it necessary to evoke the phantom of Austria, or otherwise make their foreign policy a tool for Parliamentary purposes; and I had no doubt that the line followed by the present Government was prompted by some such motive.

With regard to the integrity of the Ottoman Empire, he was well aware that no Power had a greater interest in its maintenance than England, and that the Italian Government would be more safely guided by the views of Her Majesty's Government than by the opinion of its Agents in the East.

Count Maffei remarked in reply that Italy, as a newly-constituted country, had certainly a far more important task at home to devote her energy to than in endeavouring to play a prominent part in the affairs of Europe; on the other hand, there are questions in presence of which she can neither remain silent nor indifferent. "Her Majesty's Government," he said, "are evidently convinced that it is useless to endeavour much longer to pillar up the crumbling edifice of the Turkish Empire in Europe, and in order to pave the way to its inevitable fall, they have, in our opinion, committed the grave error of entrusting the Austrians with the serious task of supplanting the Turks, losing sight of the Greek element on one side and of the Slavs on the other. Moreover, the presence of Austria on the coast from Avlore to Salonica would be considered by us as a standing menace, and incompatible with our existence as a Mediterranean Power; hence our sympathy for the Greeks and Roumanians, who, it is our firm conviction, offer the only solution to the Eastern Question as substitutes for the Turks, should the latter be finally driven from their European provinces. This undisguised expression of opinion is the best proof I can offer of our earnest desire and of our interest in endeavouring to establish Turkey firmly and securely in the possession of her European provinces; consequently, we can have had no just motive for supporting Russia's policy in the various commissions in Turkey."

Since writing the above Count Maffei has again spoken to me on the same subject, and has led me to understand that he would write to General Menabrea in a similar sense for your Lordship's information.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 15.

Mr. Macdonell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 2.)

(No. 392.)
My Lord, *Rome, September 26, 1879.*

I GATHER from certain remarks made by Count Maffei that he anticipates an unsatisfactory solution of the Jewish question in Roumania. He thinks it possible that the Chamber may give an adverse vote and dispense with recognition, in which case he is of opinion that the several Powers interested will then be at liberty to act independently, and as circumstances may suggest.

In answer to my inquiries, Count Maffei said he is certainly in favour of a prompt recognition of the present state of things in Roumania, but the great difficulty was to recall the formal declaration of Signor Cairoli to the Chamber.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 16.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 2.)

(No. 397. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Rome, September 28, 1879.*

I CALLED on Count Maffei this afternoon, and in the course of a general conversation he referred with some earnestness to the impression which appeared to prevail, that Italy had gone over to the side of Russia in matters still pending in the East. He declared very positively that such was not the case, and in support of his assertion, he referred to what had taken place in regard to the road through the Sandjak of Sophia, which forms the subject of Mr. Macdonell's despatch No. 389 of the 26th instant.

Count Maffei, after expressing himself much to the same effect as he had done to Mr. Macdonell on this subject, said he should be glad if I would inform your Lordship that the Italian Commissioner had telegraphed yesterday that, availing himself of the discretionary power with which he was invested, he had given his vote against the Russian proposal.

The announcement of this fact to the Russian Chargé d'Affaires yesterday had, Count Maffei informed me, been productive of the strongest remonstrances and reproaches on the part of that gentleman.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 17.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, October 2.)

(Confidentielle.)
(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 29 Septembre, 1879.*

NOTRE Ministre à Rome nous télégraphie que, d'après les renseignements qu'on a en ville, on semble croire que l'Angleterre et l'Autriche ne persisteront pas sur l'arrangement de la question Hellénique.

De son côté, notre Ambassadeur à Vienne nous télégraphie que, dans une conversation qu'un de ses collègues a eue avec le Prince Bismarck, le Chancelier aurait dit que les prétentions des Hellènes allaient trop loin, et qu'il suffira peut-être de les laisser s'arrondir un peu du côté de la Thessalie.

Je prie votre Excellence de communiquer, d'une manière confidentielle, ce qui précède à Lord Salisbury, et de me faire connaître l'opinion de sa Seigneurie à ce sujet.

No. 18.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 2.)

(No. 84. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, September 30, 1879.*

I OBTAINED possession of a document purporting to be one of the Circular letters addressed, on the 27th instant, by the Eagle, or National Committee, to the Sub-Committees in all the principal towns in this province. The seal of the Committee is attached to it.

The Circular states that a letter was received, on the 25th instant, from the Moscow Slavonic Committee urging great activity and quick execution of plans, as politics have undergone a change.

The National Committee, therefore, enjoins immediate activity, and regrets that, in the district to which my copy is addressed, it does "not hear of Turks being killed, of their villages burning, nor of their being robbed." Suspecting that reason may be the pastoral letter of Archbishop, or pressure exercised by Government, the Committee orders that it should be explained to the people that the pastoral letter was imposed on the Prelate in pursuance of a deceptive policy towards Europe, and particularly towards "accursed" England. Also that the Government is entirely theirs, and that the people have nothing to fear from it.

The Committee orders agents to be sent to induce the people to begin to work anew, taking care not to incur odium. It calls upon the people to follow example set in this district, where "killing, burning, and robbing" prevail; and regrets indifference in other districts, since liberty and union with Bulgaria can only be attained by such means.

I am informed that a relative of the ex-Director of Justice left yesterday with these Circulars, which are alleged to have been revised by present Director of Public Instruction.

I cannot trust the Governor-General with this information; and, moreover, any attempt to discover truth, or to arrest messenger and parties complicated, by means of Bulgarian police, would certainly fail.

Further information, including original of Moscow letters, are to be brought me. Will your Lordship authorize disbursement for this object? Shall I forward the document by messenger, or only a translation?

The Governor-General starts to-day on a tour of inspection in the provinces.

No. 19.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 2.)

(No. 84.) *Rome, October 1, 1879.*
(Telegraphic.)

THE Italian Government has accepted French proposal to recommend the Porte to take Protocol No. 13 as point of departure for preliminary deliberations with Greece.

No. 20.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 2.)

(No. 146.) *St. Petersburgh, October 1, 1879.*
(Telegraphic.)

HAVING learnt from some of my colleagues that Baron Jomini had given them to understand that your Lordship had more or less accepted the Russian proposal to refer question of bridge near Silistria to fresh Commission, I took opportunity to-day privately to remind his Excellency that answer which you had given to Russian Chargé d'Affaires, as reported in your despatch No. 519 of the 17th ultimo, was not an acceptance of their proposal.

His Excellency said that it was not an absolute refusal, and, therefore, he hoped your Lordship would agree to accept their proposal now that other Powers had consented.

Russian Chargé d'Affaires has been instructed to propose to you the 27th instant for assembling of new Commission, but he seems to have answered back that he saw no use in making such a proposal.

No. 21.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 2.)

(No. 678. Secret.) *Therapia, October 1, 1879.*
(Telegraphic.)

SULTAN spoke to me to-day about Afghanistan. I told His Majesty confidentially about Alim Mirza's letter.

His Majesty renews his offer to send an Envoy to tell the people of Afghanistan that the English are his allies, and that it is the will of the Sultan Caliph that they should be treated by all Mahommedans as friends.

His Majesty requested me to telegraph this, and ask for an answer.

No. 22.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 2, 1 P.M.)

(No. 679.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 2, 1879, 9·40 A.M.*

SENT to Sir H. Layard:—

"Sultan sends his compliments to your Excellency, Lady Layard, and Miss Du Cane.

"He has ordered a strict inquiry into Damascus [? incident] with a view of ascertaining accurately where the blame lies.

"I communicated your Excellency's second despatch on the subject to His Majesty."

No. 23.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 243.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 2, 1879, 4·30 P.M.*

YOURS Nos. 670 and 671.

Any British subject, especially if he is in the service of the Queen, should not accept any subordinate post connected with Turkish finance, otherwise he will probably be made an involuntary party to some exceptionable proceeding.

No. 24.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. R. Thomson.

(No. 13.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 2, 1879, 7·5 P.M.*

YOUR advice to Persian Government, as reported in your telegram No. 44, is approved.

You are authorized to inform Persian Government that Her Majesty's Government will gladly take a suitable opportunity of using their good offices with the Russian Government in support of the remonstrances of the Persian Government as to the interference of the Russians with the district of Karee Kala, and as to the allegiance of the Yamoot tribe of Turkomans inhabiting the country south of the lower course of the Attrek.

No. 25.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 1210.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 2, 1879.*

SIR H. LAYARD has forwarded to me in his despatch No. 822 of the 11th instant a copy of the *note verbale* which he has addressed to the Porte on the subject of the protracted delay in issuing the Constitution which it has been promised should be granted to the Protestant subjects of the Sultan.

His Excellency's representations on this subject have the entire concurrence of Her Majesty's Government.

You should take any further steps which may be necessary to keep the matter before the attention of the Porte.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 26.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 1211.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 2, 1879.*

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen Sir H. Layard's despatch No. 817 of the 10th ultimo, relative to the preparation of the Règlement to be introduced into

the European provinces of Turkey in accordance with the provisions of Article XXIII of the Treaty of Berlin.

Her Majesty's Government have learned with much satisfaction that some tangible progress is being made towards the fulfilment of the Sultan's engagements under this Article. It will be desirable that you should take an early opportunity of inquiring how far the Council of Ministers is advancing in the discussion of the draft, and whether any steps are in contemplation for forming the Local Commissions to which it will then have to be referred.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 27.

Major-General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 3.)

(No. 85.)
Buyukdéré, September 25, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour, in continuation of the subject of my despatch No. 77, to inform you that, on receipt of your telegram of the 17th instant, recommending the carrying by vote of the military route for Turkey as the best course, I took steps in that direction. I had conversations with Colonel Orero, who was unable to make up his mind on the subject because his Government, although convinced of Turkey's right to the concession, seemed apprehensive that, Russia being so bent on opposing it, difficulties would arise from recognizing it.

Also, an opportunity occurring, I suggested to Colonel Bogolubow, as if from myself, that Turkey might perhaps accept an equivalent advantage, less distasteful to Russia, in lieu of the contested one, and that possibly that equivalent might be found in the point of the watershed claimed by the English Commissioner on the Asiatic frontier. I found, however, that he was quite indisposed to make an official communication to his Government on the subject, chiefly, I believe, because he fully expected that the vote for conceding the military route to Turkey would be lost; and, as the Russian Ambassador had just left for Livadia, he felt unable in any way to bring the matter to the notice of any authority qualified to deal with it.

Immediately on the arrival of Mr. Malet I conveyed to him your Lordship's wishes, and he at once sought an interview with Count Corti, while I had several with Colonel Orero. It appears that the Italian Commissioner had at first been instructed to abstain from voting altogether, but, on making fresh representations to his Government on the aspect of the question, he was authorized to vote with the majority. The German Commissioner appeared to have the same instructions, and thus they remained, in the séances of the 20th and 22nd instant, in the position that each was waiting for the other to vote first. Both, also, were applying for more explicit instructions, and were therefore unwilling to vote till these should arrive.

Meanwhile a fresh complication arose on the 20th, through the Turkish Commissioner declining to sign the just completed act and maps of delimitation until the question of the military route should be settled, he being apprehensive that in its existing state of feeling on that subject the Commission might abandon that question as soon as the main business of delimitation should be complete. Although I could not altogether blame him for this, I felt the precedent he was setting to be a dangerous one, as the Russian Commissioner might justify himself by the example for also refusing to sign, and I therefore proposed that the signing should be proceeded with notwithstanding the Pasha's refusal. This was done, the Russian Commissioner, though he at first talked of refusing to sign until the Pasha did, joining the rest. On the 22nd the Pasha signed also, on the assurance that a vote should be come to on the other question before the Commission separated.

At the meeting of yesterday, the 24th, the Italian Commissioner at length voted for the route, and the German Commissioner thereupon joined the majority. Thus five Commissioners, namely, the Turkish, Austrian, Italian, German, and British, had voted for designating the route of Tatar-Bazardjik-Samakow-Kustendil, with the branch to Djuma, as the one to be conceded; while the French Commissioner abstained, and the Russian, as before, held altogether apart from the discussion. The Russian Commissioner had formerly, while placing difficulties in the way of the Commission on this question, affirmed that a necessary preliminary would be to confer with local authorities on the spot, as recommended by the President of the Congress of Berlin. The Austrian Commissioner now replied to this by pointing out that this recommendation had been made for the

purpose of remedying the deficiency of maps and other sources of information, and that the Commission having sent its delegates to the spot, who had traversed the road recommended throughout its extent, the suggestion of Prince Bismarck had been more than sufficiently complied with. In this I entirely concurred, and no further difficulty was made.

The Commission further agreed that they had no authority to take further steps in the matter than to record their decision in a Protocol, with the recommendation that the States interested should take measures in concert for regulating the conditions under which Turkey might enter on the exercise of her privilege, which was accordingly done.

The business of the Commission being thus concluded, it adjourned *sine die*.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

No. 28.

Major-General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 3.)

(No. 86.)
Buyukdéré, April 25, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward you Protocol No. 32 of the Bulgarian Boundary Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

Inclosure in No. 28.

Protocole No. 32.—*Séance tenue à Thérapia à l'Hôtel d'Angleterre, le* 13 *Septembre*, 1879.

Étaient présents:

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Major Comte Wedel.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Colonel Baron de Ripp,
M. le Capitaine Podstawski.

Pour la France—
M. le Commandant Lemoyne,
M. le Capitaine Marmier.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Major-Général Hamley,
M. le Major Ardagh,
M. le Capitaine Jones.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Orero,
M. le Capitaine Vicino-Pallavicino.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Bogolubow,
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Schneur.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence le Général Tahir Pacha,
Simon Effendi (Papasian).
Le Capitaine Cherafetin Effendi.

LA séance est ouverte à 2 heures.

Le protocole No. 31 est lu et adopté.

M. le Colonel Bogolubow remet à la Commission la carte des environs de Sinianova-Tchouka, qui manquait encore à la collection des dessins possédés par le Secrétariat.

Le Président remercie le Commissaire de Russie et le prie de remercier de son envoi le Général Jarnefeli. Il communique ensuite à la Commission relatif à la ligne-frontière Crni-Vrh—Pataritza. Cette communication du Capitaine Anderson, Représentant de la Grande Bretagne au sein de la Commission de Serbie, confirme et complète sa précédente dépêche insérée au Protocole No. 31. Le Président met enfin sous les yeux de ses collègues, le levé de la zone-frontière entre le Tchamkourou et l'Aï-Gedik exécuté par les officiers Anglais, et quoique ce dessin ne puisse être utilisé par le Secrétariat en raison de l'état d'avancement des travaux d'impression de la carte, il n'en remercie pas moins le Commissaire de Grande Bretagne, et les officiers Anglais présents à la séance, le Major Ardagh et le Capitaine Jones, du précieux concours qu'ils ont donné à la Commission.

Le Président invite ensuite ses collègues à procéder à un second vote sur la proposition du Colonel de Ripp, relative aux îles du Danube, le premier vote n'ayant pas tranché la question.

Les Commissaires d'Autriche-Hongrie, de France, d'Italie, et de Turquie, votent oui; les Commissaires d'Allemagne, de Grande Bretagne, et de Russie s'abstiennent d'abord, et se rallient ensuite à la majorité. La proposition est en conséquence adopté à l'unanimité.

M. le Colonel Bogolubow demande à la Commission de voter la proposition suivante qui constituerait l'Article 3 de l'Acte:—

"Un état ci-annexé donne les noms des îles, attribués aux deux parties intéressées dans la délimitation précitée; il est conforme aux indications de la carte établie en 1830 pour l'intelligence des dites opérations et dont l'original est déposé à la Sublime Porte."

Le Commissaire de Russie justifie sa proposition par la nécessité de donner une base sûre et réelle au nouvel état de choses, et d'accorder au Gouvernement Princier de Bulgarie, qui ne possède pas la Carte de Délimitation de 1830, les moyens de soutenir, au besoin, et de faire valoir ses droits.

Après un échange d'observations entre plusieurs Commissaires, *M. le Colonel Bogolubow* propose que le Secrétariat relève cet état sur la carte originale possédée par la Sublime Porte.

Ces deux propositions mises aux voix sont adoptées à l'unanimité.

La Commission vote ensuite également à l'unanimité les Articles suivants, qui reproduisent presque intégralement le texte proposé par le Président au cours de la séance du 16 Août (Protocole No. 28, p. 5).

"Art. 4. Le thalweg du Danube une fois reconnu comme il est dit aux Articles 1 et 2, et avec les restrictions indiquées à l'Article 2, formera la limite de souveraineté jusqu'à la reconnaissance suivante, quels que soient les changements que le thalweg réel puisse éprouver pendant l'intervalle d'une reconnaissance à l'autre.

"Art. 5. Quant aux droits de propriété, de jouissance et d'usage, de la part des particuliers, des communes ou des Etats, sur les îles et les eaux de fleuve, ils devront faire l'objet d'une Convention spéciale entre les deux Gouvernements riverains, sans préjudice des stipulations de l'Article LV du Traité de Berlin, qui remet à la Commission Européenne du Danube, assistée de délégués des Etats riverains, l'élaboration des règlements de navigation, de police fluviale, et de surveillance depuis les Portes de Fer jusqu'à Galatz.

"Cette Convention déterminera les principes sur lesquels s'appuiera à l'avenir la propriété des alluvions et celle des îles qui pourraient se former dans le lit du fleuve.

"Elle énumérera les travaux dans le lit ou sur les bords du fleuve, qui étant de nature à déterminer un déplacement ultérieur du thalweg, ne pourront être exécutés que du consentement unanime des deux Gouvernements riverains."

La Commission décide ensuite que l'adoption du second alinéa de l'Article 2, proposé par le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie, entraîne la suppression du second Article du projet primitif (Protocole No. 28, p. 7).

Puis elle adopte à l'unanimité les Articles 6, 7, et 8, relatifs à la frontière de la Mer Noire et à celle entre la Bulgarie et la Turquie (Macédoine), dont le texte suit:—

"Art. 6. La Mer Noire forme la limite est de la Bulgarie.

"Art. 7. Du Manchou, point situé entre Sivri-Tach et Cadir-Tépé, où la frontière entre la Bulgarie et la Roumélie Orientale va, conformément à l'Acte du 14 Août dernier, rejoindre la crête principale du Rhodope marquée sur la Carte Autrichienne comme la limite de l'ancien Sandjak de Sophia, la frontière Méridionale de la Bulgarie,

se dirigeant d'abord vers le sud, suit par la chaîne principale du Rhodope la ligne bien marquée du partage des eaux entre les bassins du Mesta-Karasu (Ropolnitza et Granitchar) d'un côté et de l'Isker de l'autre, par Routchkaia-Tchal et Nalbant; à hauteur de Kourdjalik, elle prend la direction de l'ouest par Tchebirna, et Demir-Kapiia (Demir-Kapou) jusqu'à Kadinitza-Gora (à peu près le Kadimezar-Balkan de la Carte Autrichienne), où elle s'infléchit vers le sud-ouest, et par Kodja-Koritza-Gora elle atteint l'Aï-Gedik (sommet de la montagne au nord de la passe du même nom).

"Là elle tourne de nouveau vers l'ouest et suivant la ligne de partage des eaux entre les bassins de la Rilska-Rieka et de la Bristritza-Rieka, affluents du Struma-Karasu, elle rencontre sur le contrefort de la Vodenica-Planina les sommets de Merdjik-Tépé, Kadiitza, Markovascala, Tzarev-Vrh, Mousovra, Derezlitza, Kirelo, et Fetir. Elle laisse à la Bulgarie le Monastère de Rilo et les villages de Pastra, de Riloselo, et d'Istop, à la Turquie les villages de Bistritza et Dobrava et la ville de Djouma.

"A 2,300 mètres au sud-est de Barakovo (Barakli), la frontière quitte la ligne de partage pour descendre vers la Rilska-Rieka par la crête bien accentuée du second contrefort à l'est de Barakovo, au pied duquel elle s'engage dans un torrent desséché qui la mène à la rivière à 850 mètres en amont du pont de la chaussée. Cette ligne sépare à peu près le gros des possessions de Barakovo laissé à la Turquie d'une part, et de Paramínovo (Paromin) laissé à la Bulgarie de l'autre.

"La frontière descend ensuite le thalweg de la Rilska-Reika jusqu'à son confluent avec la Struma, et tournant au nord remonte le cours de la Struma jusqu'à 600 mètres de ce confluent. Elle se dirige alors de nouveau à l'ouest dans le ravin qui sépare les villages de Tekia (Jelesnica) appartenant à la Bulgarie et de Boutchino (Bucinova) appartenant à la Turquie. Par la tête de ce ravin elle gagne deux mamelons rocheux et par ceux-ci le sommet de Tchordak-Kamik; puis elle continue par la crête de la Vlaïna, qui contourne le bassin de toutes les eaux tombant dans la Struma au sud de Boutchino; ce bassin reste dans sa totalité avec les villages de Lisia, Drenovo, Klissoura à la Turquie, le territoire de Frolech et de Tcherveritza reste au contraire à la Bulgarie.

"Par la Gora-Ersekovitza et la Gora-Dirnberitza la frontière atteint ainsi la chaîne de Golema-Planina au sommet de Sinianova-Tchouka (correspondant au Gitka de la Carte Autrichienne). Sur cette chaîne, qui sépare les eaux de la Jelechnitza et celles du Sasa-Déré se déversant dans la Bregalnica, elle rencontre successivement la Gora-Planinatz, les maisons éparses de Vitren, le Stervij-Vrh, les sommets de Sivaja-Kobila, de Stibanitza, de Koutzoulinitza, de Idropanitza, de Baltajnitza, et de Roucne, laissant au sud à la Turquie les villages de Kosevitza, de Mlashtitza, et de Sasa.

"Parvenue à Roucne, la frontière descend, toujours dans une direction générale du sud-est au nord-ouest, vers la route de Kustendil à Egri-Palanka, par la ligne de partage entre les eaux de la Lepnitza d'une part, et celles de la Kriva-Ricka affluent de l'Egri-Déré de l'autre; elle y rencontre les sommets de Saka-Bachi, de Bojeri a, et de Batchevitza.

"Elle coupe la grande route précitée près de la karnoulà de Déré-Bagdar située sur le col 1247 de la Carte Autrichienne, se redresse davantage vers le nord, et poursuivant par la ligne de faîte, elle passe par les sommets de Mogiller, Sdranchover, Tirnova, Soutzrana, laissant à la Bulgarie les villages de Kamenitza, Guvechevo, Skakavitza, Ranitzi, Pekolnitza, Tcherven-Dol, Kopriva, Babecheno, Tzerechnovno, et tout le bassin de la Pokriva-Ricka avec les villages de Jeravino, Golesh, et Karamanitza. Les villages de Jedullo, Radolsko, Fourpatch, Medosh, Soursera, Luki situés à l'ouest de la ligne restent à la Turquie.

"Arrivée sur la Babina-Poljana, la ligne de démarcation passe par les sommets de Goulemij-Vrh-Gora, et Vilo-Kolo, laissant à la Bulgarie les villages de Doganitza et Doukat, à la Turquie ceux de Proliesie et Tzerveni-Grad, et gagne ainsi à 4 kilom. au sud du Crni-Vrh la Gora-Pataritza, point de jonction des frontières Bulgaro-Turque, Turco-Serbe, et Serbo-Bulgare, aux sources de la Souga-Loubata à l'est et de l'Orlitchka à l'ouest.

"Art. 8. La frontière entre le Manchou et la Gora-Pataritza est marqué sur un croquis à l'échelle de 1/200,000, dressé d'après les cartes Russes et d'après les levés expédiés exécutés spécialement pour la Commission par les officiers Anglais, et qui sera annexé au présent Acte pour être consulté au besoin comme document explicatif.

"Le croquis precité donne en outre la région située entre Tcham-Kourou et Manchou, et complète ainsi le croquis annexée à l'Acte du 14 Août, relatif à la frontière entre la Bulgarie et la Roumélie Orientale."

Elle vote ensuite également, à l'unanimité, l'Article 9, relatif à la partie de la frontière entre le Mont Pataritza et le Crni-Vrh.

"Art. 9. De la Gora-Pataritza, point de jonction des frontières Bulgaro-Turque, Turco-Serbe, et Serbo-Bulgare jusqu'au Crni-Vrh, la frontière de la Bulgarie se confond exactement avec la ligne de partage des eaux, en passant par les sommets de Sessna-Kobila et de Koroudjak; elle a été tracée sur les lieux par la Commission Internationale, créée pour la délimitation de la Serbie et comprenant avec les Délégués des sept Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin le Représentant du Gouvernement Princier de Serbie. Cette ligne a été considérée par erreur par la dite Commission comme partie de la frontière entre la Serbie et la Turquie."

Le texte des Articles 10 et 11 relatifs à la frontière Serbo-Bulgare sera, conformément à la décision antérieure de la Commission, emprunté à l'Acte dressé par la Commission de Serbie.

La Commission vote ensuite à l'unanimité les Articles 12, 13, et 14, dont de texte suit:—

"Art. 12. Il appartiendra aux parties intéressées de prendre d'un commun accord telles mesures qu'elles croiront utiles pour établir des marques de bornage sur les diverses frontières, conformément au tracé arrêté par la Commission.

"Art. 13. Il leur appartiendra également de régler directement ou après entente réciproque, pour les maintenir ou les transformer par des compensations équivalentes, les droits de pacage ou d'usage dans les bois que pourraient avoir, par écrits, par possession ou par prescription, certaines communes frontières sur des territoires attribués par le présent Acte à un Etat, une Principauté, ou province voisine.

"Il sera d'ailleurs apporté dans les lois et règlements de douane à intervenir tous les tempéraments de nature à ménager les intérêts économiques des populations frontières.

"Conformément aux stipulations précises du Traité de Berlin, les droits de propriété des particuliers sur des immeubles situés dans un Etat, une Principauté, ou province autre que celui ou celle de leur résidence, demeurent intacts.

"Art. 14. Le présent Acte contenant quatorze Articles et établi, avec le croquis annexe indiqué à l'Article 8, en sept expéditions reconnues identiques, une pour chaque Puissance représentée dans la Commission de Délimitation, a été signé par tous les Commissaires, en vertu de leurs pouvoirs et instructions.

"Il sera soumis immédiatement à l'approbation des Gouvernements d'Allemagne, de l'Autriche-Hongrie, de la France, de la Grande Bretagne, de l'Italie, de la Russie, et de la Turquie, par leurs Commissaires respectifs, et porté ensuite à la connaissance des parties intéressées pour recevoir son exécution."

Une remarque des *Commissaires d'Autriche-Hongrie* et de *Grande Bretagne* amène les Commissaires à se prononcer sur l'opportunité de réunir en un seul et même acte des Articles ayant trait à différentes frontières.

Le Commissaire de Russie demande que le Secrétariat prépare un certain nombre de copies de l'Acte en vue des communications à faire aux diverses parties intéressées.

Le Président observe que chacun des intéressés saura retrouver dans l'Acte les Articles le concernant, et qu'ainsi la multiplicité des actes compliquerait bien inutilement le travail d'impression. Il ajoute qu'il sera d'ailleurs tenu compte du désir du Colonel Bogolubow.

La Commission se range à cet avis et décide qu'il n'y a pas lieu de rédiger un Acte spécial pour chacune des trois frontières—frontière du Danube, frontière entre la Bulgarie et la Turquie (Macédoine), frontière entre la Bulgarie et la Serbie.

Son Excellence Tahir Pacha, envisageant l'Acte dans son ensemble, fait ensuite observer que, limité aux quatorze Articles dont il a été donné lecture, ce document demeurerait incomplet. L'Acte du 14 Août, relatif à la frontière entre la Bulgarie et la Province de Roumélie, réglait en trois Articles toutes les questions d'ordre économique se rattachant à ladite frontière et notamment la question des cimetières de Chipka et du libre passage jusqu'aux cimetières par la grande route de Tirnova à Kézanlik. De ces trois Articles, deux ont été conservés dans la pièce actuellement soumise à la Commission. Le Commissaire Ottoman eût compris qu'on eût substitué au troisième un Article traitant du libre passage sur la route traversant la partie méridionale de l'ancien Sandjak de Sophia. C'eût été consacrer les stipulations expresses du Congrès insérées au Protocole No. 17, de même qu'il avait été tenu un juste compte de la simple recommandation faite dans le même Protocole No. 17 au

sujet des cimetières de Chipka. Se départir dans le nouvel acte de la ligne de conduite suivie dans l'Acte précédent, équivaudrait à ne considérer dans les Protocoles que les parties au désavantage de la Turquie. Le Commissaire Ottoman ne croit pas pouvoir signer l'Acte, s'il n'est pas complété par un Article relatif à la route militaire.

M. le Colonel de Ripp estime pleinement fondées les observations du Commissaire Ottoman; il croit cependant que l'introduction dans le corps de l'Acte de l'Article demandé par le préopinant entraînerait un refus de signature du Colonel Bogolubow. Pour éviter cet autre inconvénient, il vaudrait mieux, selon lui, par raison d'opportunité, renvoyer à un acte spécial la désignation de la route par le sud de l'ancien Sandjak de Sophia.

Son Excellence Tahir Pacha réplique que la Commission sera peut-être tentée de se dissoudre après la signature de l'Acte, sans donner une solution à cette question épineuse.

Le Président dit que l'Acte signé, il appartiendra à la Commission de voir si elle a terminé ses travaux.

M. le Colonel de Ripp insiste auprès du Commissaire Ottoman pour l'amener à revenir sur sa résolution, en disant qu'il ne peut pas croire que la Commission n'épuise pas son mandat, et laisse irrésolue la question de la route militaire.

Son Excellence Tahir Pacha exprime alors l'intention d'en référer à son Gouvernement.

La Commission se sépare à 5 heures en réglant, comme il suit, l'ordre du jour de la prochaine séance, dont la date est fixée au Samedi, 20 Septembre:

1. Signature de l'acte.
2. Règlement de la question de la route militaire.

(Signé) WEDEL.
RIPP.
J. V. LEMOYNE.
B. HAMLEY.
B. ORERO.
A. BOGOLUROW.
M. TAHIR.

Certifié conforme à l'original:
(Signé) P. PODSTAWSKI.
G. MARMIER.
F. VICINO-PALLAVICINO.
N. SCHNEUR.
SIMON PAPASIAN.

No. 29.

Mr. Egerton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 3.)

(No. 627.)

My Lord, *Vienna, September 29, 1879.*

WITH reference to my No. 619, reporting the alarm felt by the Roumanian Government that the Bulgarian Frontier Commission had deprived them of certain islands which they had occupied since 1830, M. de Calice tells me that he very soon reassured M. Balachano by informing him that the possession of the islands held since the Treaty of Adrianople was not likely to be disturbed.

My not having seen any Protocol of the proceedings of the Bulgarian Frontier Commission on this subject subsequent to the sitting of the 11th August, when the basis of the thalweg indicated by the Treaty of Adrianople had not been adopted, is my sole excuse for having addressed your Lordship at all on the subject of this Roumanian protest.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 30.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 3.)

(No. 147. Secret.) *St. Petersburgh, October* 2, 1879.
(Telegraphic.)

PRIVATE unofficial negotiations are now going on for a meeting between Prince Gortchacow and Prince Bismarck, but they are kept quite secret.

It is believed that Prince Gortchacow has received orders from Livadia to take this step.

No. 31.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 3.)

(No. 148.) *St. Petersburgh, October* 2, 1879.
(Telegraphic.)

I HEAR, confidentially, from a good financial source, that a large Russian foreign loan will be very shortly brought out at Paris, probably for 20,000,000*l*.

Russian financial agents are now buying Russian stock everywhere abroad, and artificially forcing up price in view of this operation.

No. 32.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 3.)

(No. 681.) *Therapia, October* 3, 1879.
(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE received following figures from Sir H. Layard, dated yesterday :—

"Midhat Pasha, myself, and Stambouli came to an arrangement which, if ratified by the Porte, will, I hope, close the case definitively."

No. 33.

Mr. R. Thomson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 3, 6·30 P.M.)

(No. 49. Confidential.) *Tehran, October* 3, 1879, 8·50 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

THE Persian Government has just received a further telegram from the Kuchan Chief, in which he states that General Lamakin's attack on Geuk-Tepe was at first successful, but that determined assault was made the same night on the Russians, who were beaten and compelled to retreat 70 miles to Beurma, whence they subsequently retreated to Bendhasan. The Russian loss is given at close upon 1,000.

I learn from a confidential source that information has reached the Persian Government from the Russian Legation to the effect that communications from Chejelar [*sic*] to the front are interrupted.

(Communicated to Viceroy.)

No. 34.

Sir A. Walsham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 3, 6·30 P.M.)

(No. 66.) *Berlin, October* 3, 1879.
(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to my despatch No. 471, Roumanian Minister of Finance has settled difficulty respecting security to be offered by Roumanian Government in connection with the purchase of railways, and will probably return to Bucharest this evening.

In the Agreement signed by him and by the bankers on behalf of the German Company, the Roumanian Government undertake, among other things, not to alienate any of the railway lines during a certain period, and to mortgage revenues of tobacco monopoly by way of additional security. It remains to be seen whether the Chambers

will vote the Agreement. The Minister of Finance is not altogether without hope that they may do so.

No. 35.

Consul Sir C. Sebright to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 4.)

(No. 19. Political.)

My Lord, *Corfu, September* 25, 1879.

I VENTURE to do myself the honour of reporting to your Lordship that I have just been favoured with a copy of the "Standard" of the 16th instant, a paper which enjoys the reputation of supporting the policy of Her Majesty's Government, and containing an article on the "Greco-Albanian question."

The paper appears to have been forwarded to me by the writer of the "Article," Mr. Alexander Macdonald, whom I have the pleasure of knowing personally, and for whom I entertain a sincere respect and regard.

Latterly, when on his way to England, after a prolonged stay in Epirus and Thessaly, I had an opportunity of conversing with Mr. Macdonald on the present condition of those unhappy provinces, as partially referred to in my despatch No. 17, Political, of the 14th ultimo, only on that occasion he did not favour me with any of the details conveyed in the "Article" above referred to, and on which I consider it a paramount duty to offer a few comments, although at the risk of trespassing unpardonably on your Lordship's patience and oft-experienced indulgence.

It is impossible not to perceive at a glance that the "correspondent" of the "Standard," whoever he be, like some other correspondents I have met with, writes with a decided bias in favour of "Hellenic aspirations," a tendency which, while giving the writer full credit for the honesty of his convictions, imparts, I humbly conceive, the right, if it does not improve the duty, of scrutinizing his statements with a certain degree of jealousy. Under this impression, therefore, I must take leave, in the first place, to dissent from the reliableness of the statistics of the writer of the article in question. For brevity's sake I shall only refer to two instances under this head—those of the important districts of Chimara and Pogoniani districts, which may be said to form the "key of the position" as regards the solution, for good or evil, of the "Greco-Albanian question."

As respects the former, the writer of the article states that Chimara "contains but seven villages, all Christian," with a population of 10,000. I have taken some pains to ascertain the real facts in those respects, and according to the best information, I feel constrained to declare that Chimara contains fifteen large villages, eight of which are inhabited exclusively by Christians, and the remainder by Christians and Mussulmans in varying proportions, neither religionists to be bought over "by love or money" to the Hellenic cause; while the aggregate population of the district, according to the most reliable estimates, numbers from 55,000 to 60,000 souls. On the score of population I am glad to be able to refer to Major Stuart's Commercial Report for 1867, although the Major appears to have been misinformed as to the exact number of villages.

Again, it is stated by the writer of the article under consideration, that the district of Pogoniani contains forty-four villages, with a "total population of 27,000, all Greek," but, till better advised, I must hesitate to admit that the villages amount to more than half that number at the utmost,* unless, indeed, the groups of cottages inhabited by peasant agriculturalists and attached to proprietary Chiflicks are to be allowed to rank as villages.

On the question of population generally, it is to be remarked that all calculations must necessarily be merely hypothetical. No regular census has ever been prepared, nor would the task be easily accomplished even were it set about with all the means at the disposal of the Turkish Government, because a race has to be dealt with, among whom the idea of "numbering the people" approaches the sacrilegious.

No earthly consideration would induce the father of a family to make an exact return of the members of his household, inasmuch as he firmly believes that his doing so would be followed within the year by some calamity involving the death of those most dear to him. This same superstition prevails in the Ionian Islands, and, I believe, all over the east.

* It is but fair to state that Leake, a high authority, gives forty as the number of villages in this district, but only twenty are deemed worthy of being entered on his map.—S.

With such inveterate prejudices to combat, no conclusive argument, I maintain, can be based on any estimate hitherto formed of the general population of Epirus.

Even at the risk of incurring the reproach of transgressing the utmost allowable limits of my proper attributions, I would here venture to remark that the question of population, inseparable from that of territorial rights, involves another most important factor—wholly and entirely overlooked in all the discussions that have hitherto come under my notice touching the future destinies of Epirus.

The rights of property still count for something among the civilized nations of Europe, and the owner of a landed estate, when measures radically affecting the vital interests of the country fall to be debated, is held to be entitled to a more authoritative voice in determining the issue than the artizan, or the peasant labourer who earns his daily bread by the sweat of his brow. Now, viewed under this aspect, how stands the case as far as Epirus is concerned?

From the best information I have been able to gather, and after discussing the matter with my Turkish colleague, himself an Epirote, I feel compelled to conclude that some four-fifths of the landed property of the province—Government and Takké lands included—is vested in Mussulmans, of whom the more considerable hold their lands, not as the descendants of Mussulman invaders, but as the descendants of Christian forefathers, who, at the date of the conquest, embraced Mohammedanism to save their estates from confiscation, as happened largely in Bosnia and Herzegovina, under analogous circumstances. Yet, all this notwithstanding, with the advocates of the cession of Epirus to Greece, superior territorial possessions, rank, and education go for nothing. Heads are counted; it is found that the adherents of the Oriental Church outnumber those of Islam; so without consulting the wishes of either party, they are to be handed over *en masse* to a foreign Government.

With all this, as my Ottoman colleague argues, it may be admitted, although I could not venture to vouch for the accuracy of the assumption, that more of the soil is owned by Christians in the southern parts of Epirus than farther north. Yet, be this as it may, should it be determined to invest the province with autonomous rights, to deprive it of its south-eastern maritime frontier (the sole possible strategic frontier), by the cession of the limitroph districts to Greece, would be absolutely tantamount to strangling it at its birth!

These latter remarks, in which I have ventured to indulge, may appear digressive, but they naturally lead, it will, I respectfully trust, be admitted, to the discussion of the "crowning" argument in favour of Albanian annexation. I refer to the Memorial, cited in the article, as addressed to King Otho of Greece in 1847 by the Chiefs of five cazas in Upper and Lower Epirus, and stated to represent the grievances and wishes of 21,620 families, who describe themselves as "a people very poor, in an arid and stony country, without knowledge and instruction, being all men of arms."

It is evident, however, on the face of their Memorial, that to whatever extent this goodly fraternity may have been void of "knowledge and instruction," they were evidently gifted with a keen eye to their main interests—whether moral or political—for, with the strongest possible motives for renouncing their allegiance to the Sultan, they make the transfer of that allegiance to "His Royal Majesty of Greece" dependent, as a preliminary condition, on "mutually arranged Conventions and Capitulations;" and we know what "Capitulations" mean in Turkey, and so do the Turks themselves.

Moreover, the petitioners were a pious and law-abiding generation, and only required to be governed "in the fear of God" and their "Prophet;" in which latter and most momentous particulars it is much to be doubted that they would have mended their condition by union with Greece. I humbly opine not; but that they were a people already ripe for self-government their assertion of religious principle, their well-defined views respecting popular rights, not to omit their modest avowal of their neglected education, most amply prove.

And I will venture to add that much good judgment they manifested in not prosecuting to greater lengths their incipient negotiations with "His Royal Majesty of Greece," and in having resigned themselves to their hard fate in the hope of better days to come. That six years later they had completely changed their views of the blessings to be derived from a Greek protectorate is made manifest by the fact that when, in 1854, King Otho dispatched an army, under the command of Generals Grivas and Zavella, for the purpose of liberating Albania from the Turkish yoke, not a single individual of the patriot memorialists, "being all men of arms,"* joined the raiders, with whose exploits, when resident of Santa Maura, I had to busy myself much beyond what was at all agreeable.

* The invading force was only joined by twenty natives, outlaws, and fugitives from justice.—S.

On this event I have had occasion to comment in a communication which I had the honour of addressing to your Lordship very recently, to which I will only further presume to add that one of my reports, forwarded by the then Lord High Commissioner, Sir Henry Ward, to the Earl of Westmoreland at Vienna, and by the latter shown to the Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Count Schmerling, as recorded in a "Blue Book" of that period, contributed not a little to the occupation of Athens by the allied Powers, a strong measure no doubt, but it was the salvation of Greece, for no milder expedient could possibly have availed at that conjuncture to repress the mania which possessed the Greeks for revolutionizing and annexing the neighbouring Turkish provinces, and it will be fortunate indeed if the same aggressive schemes once more revived with, if possible, greater intensity, do not result in compelling the Powers to recur to a similar remedy, and that at no distant day. They have been so long allowed to boast without contradiction that they are the arbiters of the destinies of the east, that they have come to believe it as an accepted fact. Till cured of this fond conceit, they must continue to remain a thorn in the side of their immediate neighbours, and a standing menace to the peace of Europe.

I do not venture to apologize for the length of this despatch. The only excuse I have to plead in extenuation is, that the substance of it is inseparably interwoven with the tenour of preceding political reports, which I conceived the interests of the service and my own credit required me to justify.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES SEBRIGHT.

No. 36.

Mr. Adams to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 4.)

(No. 995.)
My Lord, *Paris, October* 3, 1879.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 1156 of the 15th ultimo, and to my despatch No. 964 of the 17th ultimo, M. Waddington told me yesterday that M. Ristich had stated flatly to the French Agent at Belgrade that, if the Extraordinary Skuptchina were to be now convoked for the express purpose of passing a measure of Jewish emancipation, the result would be a hostile vote to the Government, and the measure would not be carried; that, however, if the Powers insisted upon it, the Assembly should be convoked.

M. Waddington remarked that the object of the Servian Minister for Foreign Affairs was evidently to wait and see what would take place in Roumania before bringing on the question in his own country.

M. Waddington added that, although he preferred that the measure should be passed at once in Servia, he did not feel inclined under the circumstances to press for the immediate convocation of the Extraordinary Skuptchina for this purpose.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 37.

M. Bartholomei to Sir Julian Pauncefote.—(*Received October* 4.)

Très-cher Sir Julian, *Chesham House, le 3 Octobre*, 1879.

JE viens de recevoir un avis télégraphique de M. de Giers de Livadia qui porte que les Délégués désignés par le Gouvernement Russe pour faire partie de la Commission Technique chargée d'étudier le point de départ de la frontière Bulgaro-Roumaine sur le Danube, sont le Colonel du Génie Struve et l'Ingénieur Civil Karyteheff, qui se trouveront à Silistrie à la date convenue du $\frac{1}{13}$ Octobre.

Veuillez en faire part, je vous prie, au Marquis de Salisbury, et agréez, très-cher Sir Julian, l'assurance de ma haute considération.

(Signé) M. BARTHOLOMEI.

No. 38.

Sir J. Walsham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 4.)

(No. 67. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, October* 3, 1879.

FROM what Roumanian Minister of Finance has told me he evidently does not think it will be possible for his Government to offer better terms with regard to emancipation question than those proposed in Project now before the Chambers.

German Government consider this Project most unsatisfactory, and fully appreciate difficulty which will be created for the Powers should it pass Chambers; but I am certain they will not at present take the initiative in directly opposing it. They are unwilling to do anything which might hinder settlement of railway question, or in any way embarrass [? position of] Austria in Roumania; but I feel sure they would be ready to co-operate with Powers if any one of them took the lead in objecting to the present proposals of the Roumanian Government.

No. 39.

Consul-General Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 4.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, October* 3, 1879.

I HAVE to-day a letter from St. John, asking me to telegraph to your Lordship for permission for him to go to Constantinople to explain to Ambassador the present state of affairs in North-Eastern Albania. He says his presence cannot in any [? ease] [? insure] real saving of native Christians, whilst if present meeting of League has an unfavourable issue he could be most useful to Ambassador by indicating what ought to be immediately done.

St. John further tells me that although Governor still begs him to keep within doors, he and his Russian colleague occasionally venture out at imminent personal risk.

I agree with St. John that if he is to be kept a prisoner in doors his presence at Prisrend will do more harm than good, but I am of opinion that the exertion necessary to restore order is not beyond the power of Turkish Government.

Six battalions would suffice to dissipate league and bring [? about] accomplishment of proper subjection of the whole district. Policy of working through league and discrediting foreign Governments by threatening their Consuls ought not to be tolerated.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 40.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 4, 12·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Beyrout, October* 4, 1879, 11·30 A.M.

I LEAVE Beyrout this evening on my way back to Constantinople, visiting some port on the coast of Asia Minor, Samos, Scio, and Smyrna.

My visit to Syria has been most successful in every respect, and will, I believe, have useful political results.

My reception has everywhere been gratify[? ing] [four groups wrong]s quite enthusiastic.

I will send you a full Report on my return to Constantinople. I shall meet Admiral Hornby at Larnaka to-morrow.

No. 41.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 4.)

(No. 662.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 4, 1879, 6·45 P.M.

SAFVET PASHA is very anxious that the inclosure in Major Trotter's No. 68 of the 19th August should not be published in a Blue Book for fear it should arouse

all the old agitation against Turkey. He promises to take immediate steps with regard to [? Moosh].

I said I would send message, but that if the Porte did nothing to abate these horrors, public opinion must be used to coerce it.

No. 42.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 4.)

(No. 663.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 4, 1879, 7 P.M.

ALIM MIRZA has no objection to publication of letters of which I have forwarded copies.

He is preparing a pamphlet on the subject of Russian intrigues in Central Asia during the Turco-Russian war.

No. 43.

Mr. Adams to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 5.)

(No. 147.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris October* 4, 1879.

M. WADDINGTON requests me to tell your Lordship that he cannot help expressing surprise at not having yet received an answer from Her Majesty's Government as to recommending Porte to accept Declaration which Greek Commission have been instructed to submit that the two parties are agreed to accept as point of departure and base of discussion the indications of Protocol 13.

He said this was merely formal, and that he understood that your Lordship had already agreed to recommend to the Porte acceptance of the Declaration. He added that the delay on the part of Her Majesty's Government was placing him in an awkward position, and had even given rise to ill-natured comments from Berlin respecting his relations with England.

I said that I was without instructions, but would telegraph to your Lordship on the subject.

No. 44.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 247.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 5, 1879, 11 P.M.

IT appears to me that Safvet Pasha's emendation, reported in your telegram No. 676, is not unreasonable.

No. 45.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Adams.

(No. 158.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 5, 1879, 11·40 P.M.

YOURS No. 147.

I received information of Safvet's amendment to the Greek proposal on Friday; and I instructed Mr. Malet on Saturday (yesterday) that I did not think the amendment unreasonable. It seems to me to render more exactly than the Greek words the view that was entertained at the Congress with respect to the frontier indicated.

If, as M. Waddington thinks, the proposal of the Greeks is a mere formality, they will have no difficulty in accepting Safvet's amendment. If, as I rather imagine, it is designed by the Greeks for the purpose of making the Turks commit themselves further than they wish, an exercise of pressure on our part would amount to forcing on the Turks, to some extent, the Greek proposals; and this policy, as M. Waddington knows, Her Majesty's Government do not, under the circumstances, consider possible for them.

No. 46.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 1232.) *Foreign Office, October 5, 1879.*

Sir,

WITH reference to your telegram No. 676 of the 1st instant, I have to state to you that the emendation suggested by Safvet Pasha to the declaration which the Greek Delegates have been instructed to submit to the Commission for the rectification of the Turco-Greek frontier, as reported in your telegram No. 663 of the 21st ultimo, does not appear to Her Majesty's Government to be unreasonable.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 47.

Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 6.)

(No. 29. Political.) *Bosna-Serai, September 22, 1879.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 16, Political, of the 3rd July last, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that Baron Jovanovic will not return to Bosnia, and has been succeeded in his post of Adlatus to the Duke of Würtemberg by Lieutenant Field-Marshal Baron Dahlen, who arrived here a short time since.

Baron Dahlen has but a slight knowledge of Slav, and therefore labours under the same difficulty as the Duke of Würtemberg in not being able to hold direct communication with the natives. Even could either His Royal Highness or Baron Dahlen speak Slav, they are naturally so occupied that they could not be accessible at every moment to all comers, as the people desire, and in the way they have been accustomed with Turkish Pashas.

What the people seem to wish, therefore, is that there should be some one of lower rank than General, acquainted with their language, to whom they could have easy access, and express freely their wants and desires, and who would serve as intermedium between them and His Royal Highness.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 48.

Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 6.)

(No. 30. Political.) *Bosna-Serai, September 24, 1879.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 28, Political, of the 15th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that both the northern brigade from Priboj, and the southern brigade from Plevlje reached Prjepolje on the 14th, and occupied the town unopposed. Two battalions of infantry were left there as garrison, and there being no intention of any further advance this year the Austrian troops started on their return march on the 16th. At Priboj, I am told, only one battalion of Austrian troops will remain, and at Plevlje five battalions.

The Duke of Würtemberg, having visited both Priboj and Prjepolje, returned here on the 19th instant. His Royal Highness complains bitterly of the want of good-will shown by all the Turkish military commanders, and the difficulties raised by them on every occasion. He also says that the Turkish Commissioner, Husni Pasha, received most contradictory orders from Savfet and Osman Pashas, the former being evidently anxious to loyally execute the Convention regarding the occupation of the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar, while the latter seemed to throw every obstacle in the way. Husni Pasha, however, appears to have done his utmost under the circumstances to smooth matters.

When the date was finally fixed for the entry into the sandjak of the Austrian troops, the Duke of Würtemberg informed Husni Pasha, and requested that all necessary instructions might be given to the Turkish commanders. The Pasha replied that the Turkish garrisons had been instructed to evacuate the country two or three days before the entry of the Austrians. To this His Royal Highness strongly objected, as it would give, he

said, the occupation a hostile appearance, and demanded that they should only retire after the arrival of the Austrian troops, and that the latter should be received at the frontier in a befitting and friendly manner.

When on the 8th, however, the Austrians reached the frontier beyond Cainica, there was no one to receive them, and all along the road to Plevlje the Turkish troops evacuated their posts and fell back before them. On arriving at Plevlje on the 10th, they found the Turkish garrison drawn up under arms at the entry of the town, but the Military Commander, Mustafa Pasha, does not appear to have been very courteous or conciliating. When requested to make over to the Austrians the redoubt and other posts held by the Turks, he flatly refused to comply, having, he said, no instructions to that effect. He admitted having previously received orders to retire before the entry of the Austrians, but he had since, he stated, been instructed to remain. General Killic telegraphed to the Duke at Cainica for instructions, and His Royal Highness, not wishing to push matters to an extremity, ordered him not to molest the Turks in their positions. At Prjepolje also the Turkish troops did not retire, and up to the present moment, therefore, there are both Austrian and Turkish garrisons at Plevlje and Prjepolje, but at each of these places the Turkish garrison consists of only one battalion.

The northern brigade under General Obadic was met at the River Uvac by the Major in command of the Turkish troops at Banja. He made no objection to the Austrians crossing the river, but protested against any further advance. The General, however, occupied Priboj, but the Turks would not evacuate Banja, which is a strategical position commanding the Nova-Varos and Prjepolje roads.

Your Lordship will perhaps remember that it was still occupied by the Servians in the spring of 1878, as reported in my despatch No. 25, Political, of the 25th April, when I proceeded there to report on the Montenegrin and Servian frontiers as defined by the Treaty of San Stefano.

General Obadic said he should not interfere with the Turks at Banja if they did not choose to evacuate the position, but should continue his advance towards Prjepolje regardless of their presence. The Turkish garrison, therefore, consisting of two companies, still remains, and the frontier-line of the territory occupied by the Austrians is held by mixed Turkish and Austrian posts.

The Austrian troops at Plevlje, Prjepolje, and Priboj are under canvas pending the construction of huts, but lodgings have been provided in the towns for the officers, and the necessary buildings set apart for magazines and hospitals. Every possible difficulty, however, the Duke tells me, was at first thrown by the Turkish authorities in the way of the Austrians renting houses or acquiring land on which to construct huts.

His Royal Highness states that the Austrian and Turkish soldiers fraternized immediately and are on the best of terms, and that the population of the newly-occupied districts, Islam as well as Christian, received the Austrians in a very friendly spirit. There has been much brigandage of late in the neighbourhood of both Plevlje and Priboj, and the inhabitants hope that the arrival of the Austrian troops inaugurates a securer period.

At Priboj, I am told, many of the Mussulmans offered spontaneously to deliver up their arms to the Austrian commander—an offer that was not accepted, as there is no present intention of disarming the population.

All the military authorities bear testimony to the willingness with which the Turkish civil functionaries did all that was required of them.

This peaceable advance of the Austrians will, no doubt, have a very good effect throughout Bosnia. The occupation of the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar has always been employed as a bugbear by those who wish to keep the country in a state of excitation. Violent opposition on the part of the population was always predicted by such persons, and even risings in other parts of Bosnia.

Your Lordship, however, will probably remember that I have always held that it depended entirely on the action of the Porte and the local Turkish authorities whether the advance of the Austrians was met by armed resistance or not, and that if they acted loyally the population would not stir.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 49.

Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 6.)

(No. 31. Political.)
My Lord, *Bosna-Serai, September 25, 1879.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 27, Political, of the 15th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the disturbances in the Herzegovina appear to have been for the moment quelled.

The insurgents have been attacked by the troops and dispersed, with a loss of fifteen killed and ten prisoners. These latter, I am informed, will probably be shot. There was no loss on the side of the troops.

Two versions are current of the origin of these disturbances. According to one version, when the Austrian occupation of the Herzegovina took place, many of the Christians who were in revolt against the Porte were enrolled as Pandoors, with a view to give them some occupation and also to win them over to the Austrian cause. Now that the country is tranquil and their services no longer required they have been discharged, and an attempt was made to disarm them. This they resented and fled to the hills, and resumed their former habits of brigandage.

The other version is that an attempt was made, in consequence of orders from the Colonel of Gendarmerie at Serajevo, to take a certain number of young men from the district of Nevesinje to serve in the new gendarme force that is being organized. The Mussulmans who were selected quietly submitted, but the Christians declared they would not serve, and took to the mountains.

I am inclined to give credence to the first of these versions, although there is no doubt that Colonel Adzia, the Colonel of Gendarmerie alluded to, and who has since been removed from his command, acted most unadvisedly in many respects. Here great discontent was caused by his insisting on the Mussulmans who had enlisted wearing the Austrian cap and eating the same rations as were issued to the Austrian gendarmes; and also by stating that in case of death they would be buried just as any other Austrian soldier. The two last rules were soon perceived to be inadmissible. As regards the uniform, a Commission was appointed to consider the subject, and a decision, I hear, was come to in favour of somewhat of a national dress, with a fez instead of a cap, and such uniforms are now being made in Austria for the force. Unfortunately, however, the effect produced by these ill-judged proceedings is not easily obliterated, and the Mussulmans, who would otherwise have been the backbone of the force, show no longer any inclination to enlist.

I think it is also not improbable that the failure of the harvest in the Herzegovina, and the consequent scarcity of food, may have been the reason of many persons joining the insurgent bands who would not otherwise have done so.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Würtemberg starts on the 28th for the Herzegovina, to inquire into the cause of the late disorders and to take measure to prevent their recurrence. His Royal Highness will afterwards proceed to Montenegro viâ Ragusa and Cattaro to see Prince Nicolas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 50.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 6.)

(No. 228.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, September 25, 1879.*

I HAD the honour to forward to your Lordship by post this morning a French copy of the Law by which Ministers have proposed to the Chamber of Deputies yesterday to amend Article 7 of the Constitution.

This Law is accompanied by a nominal list of upwards of 1,000 Jews, on whom it is intended to confer at once Roumanian citizenship, with all civil and political rights.

The list is classified under six categories, according to the qualifications by which the particular Jews under it are mentioned, which, in the opinion of the Government, entitle them to this privilege.

It is not by any means certain yet that this proposed Bill will secure the necessary majority of two-thirds so as to become law; should it, however, really obtain it the present Chambers will have accomplished the task for which they were particularly

elected, and no further amendment of the Constitution can be attempted by them, or in any other manner than again by the elaborate and complicated process which is now being gone through.

When the difficulties and dangers are considered which Ministers have had to incur to secure some chance for the adoption of this measure giving rights, only partially and incompletely, to indigenous Jews, it is evident that any more extensive proposal would have been certain of rejection, and that there exists no immediate prospect of securing in a Constitutional way, legally and without the use of a coercive force, any more extensive Act of Emancipation.

It will be for the powers to consider whether, according to their judgment, they can modify their relations towards Roumania on this Ministerial proposal becoming law.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 51.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 6.)

(No. 229. Secret.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, September 25, 1879.*

IT is well known here how deep an interest the German Imperial Government have shown in the success of the negotiations for the purchase of the Roumanian railways, by this Government, from the foreign Company having its seat at Berlin.

The desire to conclude this arrangement has never been very keen here, but so much value is attached, naturally, to the friendship of Prince Bismarck, that no price is considered as too high to attain that object.

The Ministers feel that their project for Jewish emancipation, as presented to the Chambers, will be severely censured by the Powers, and that if the German Chancellor could be induced to appreciate their immense difficulties, and extend his indulgence to them, this might have some effect on the other Cabinets.

The Railway Company question has been frequently the occasion and pretext of much irritation at Berlin against Roumania, it is with a view to smooth matters and bring about a definite arrangement, leading, if possible, to a more friendly feeling, and to prompt recognition, that it has been decided to send again the Finance Minister to Berlin on a mission.

M. Stourdza left for that capital yesterday morning.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 52.

Mr. Egerton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 6.)

(No. 624.)
My Lord, *Vienna, September 29, 1879.*

BARON CALICE told me to-day that the Russian Chargé d'Affaires had notified to the Austrian Government the desire of his Government that a Technical Commission for the examination of the question of the site of the Silistrian bridge should be formed, and that an Austrian Technical Commissioner should be appointed without delay, as it was desirable that the Commission should commence its labours on or about the 27th October.

The Austrian Government will appoint a military engineer officer as their Commissioner.

M. Fonton, when informed of this, made no objection on the part of the Russian Government.

Baron de Ripp, the present Austrian Commissioner for the delimitation of the Bulgarian frontier, belongs to the General Staff, but is not an engineer officer.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 53.

Mr. Egerton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 6.)

(No. 626.) *Vienna, September 29, 1879.*

My Lord,

SINCE I asked Baron Calice, two days ago, as to whether either the French or Italian Government had made any communication on the subject of the Turco-Greek frontier, Count Andrassy has received from the French the substance of the instructions sent by M. Waddington to Constantinople, in which M. Fournier is ordered to advise the Porte to accept as the starting-point of the negotiations the indications given under Protocol No. 13 of the Treaty of Berlin.

The Count quite concurs in the step taken by the French Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 54.

Sir J. Walsham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 6.)

(No. 479. Confidential.) *Berlin, October 3, 1879.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship, with reference to my despatch No. 471 of the 27th ultimo, that M. Stourdza has been enabled to come to terms with the German Company, in respect to the security to be offered by the Roumanian Government in connection with the purchase of the railways.

A fresh Agreement has, therefore, been drawn up and signed by him and by the bankers representing the Company, and the Roumanian Minister will probably return this evening to Bucharest.

By this Agreement the Roumanian Government binds itself, amongst other obligations, not to alienate for a certain period any of the lines of railways, and undertakes to give as additional security to the shareholders for the punctual payment of the purchase-money a mortgage on the revenues of the tobacco monopoly.

This was the same security as was offered by M. Stourdza when he came to Berlin on a previous occasion; but so much opposition was made to this arrangement that the Roumanian Government endeavoured to persuade the German Company to accept some other guarantee.

This, however, the Company has refused to do, and the new Agreement will shortly be submitted to the Chambers.

It is not at all certain that the requisite majority will be found to vote in its favour; but there appears to be still some hope of such a result being obtained.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN WALSHAM.

No. 55.

Sir J. Walsham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 6.)

(No. 481. Confidential.) *Berlin, October 3, 1879.*

My Lord,

I HAVE had an opportunity of seeing M. Stourdza, the Roumanian Minister of Finance, whose recent return to Berlin in connection with the arrangements for purchasing the railways from the German Company I reported in my No. 471 of the 27th ultimo.

From what he tells me it is evident that he has but very slight hope of the Roumanian Government being able to submit to the Chambers more satisfactory proposals as regards the emancipation question than those contained in the Project now before them.

These proposals are, I know, considered most inadequate by the German Government, who are at the same time fully aware of the embarrassing position which will be created for the Powers should the Chambers pass them in their present form.

I feel, however, convinced from what M. de Radowitz has told me that the German Government would not, at all events for the present, be prepared to take the initiative in pressing upon the Roumanian Cabinet the necessity of their meeting the views of the Powers in a more loyal manner.

They are just now unwilling to take any steps with respect to Roumania which might give rise to an ill-feeling towards Germany, and so prevent an immediate settlement of the railway question, and they are equally anxious, I imagine, to avoid being the first to propose any line of action which might be calculated to increase the difficulty of Austria's present position in the Principality.

But although objecting to take the lead in suggesting fresh proposals to the Roumanian Government, the German Government would, I am convinced, be ready to follow that of any of the Powers with whom they have hitherto been co-operating.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN WALSHAM.

No. 56.

Consul-General Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 6.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, October 6, 1879, 8 P.M.*

AS a number of despatches received from St. John to-day, under flying seal, can only reach your Lordship ten days hence, I venture to telegraph that he depicts affairs of North-Eastern Albania as most alarming. Warnings and threats as to his own safety from every side, the local authorities included, have obliged him to give up going out of the house.

If it is impossible to induce Turkish Government to assert its authority by the immediate dispatch of troops, I quite agree with St. John that he ought not to continue in a place where he is a prisoner. Reports of treatment of three Consuls at Prisrend are already spreading and causing uneasiness.

The hope of the Turkish Government that the assembling of the League may result in good may be disappointed, and the connection with it is so dangerous that I cannot but echo St. John's urgent call for the immediate and serious attention of the Porte.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 57.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Kirby Green.

(No. 48.) *Foreign Office, October 6, 1879.*

Sir,

I HAVE this day informed you by telegram that, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, it would be advisable that Mr. St. John should proceed from Prisrend to Constantinople, in order to report to Her Majesty's Ambassador on the state of affairs in Albania, as such a course would probably have a greater effect on the Porte than would be produced by any written communication.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 58.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Adams.

(No. 1197.) *Foreign Office, October 6, 1879.*

Sir,

I YESTERDAY received your telegram conveying a message from M. Waddington, from which it appeared that he had been expecting to receive an answer from Her Majesty's Government in regard to the proposed recommendation to the Porte to accept the declaration which the Greek Commission had been instructed to submit, that the two parties are agreed to accept as a point of departure and base of discussion the indications of Protocol No. 13.

This step M. Waddington appears to consider as merely formal, whilst he anticipated that Her Majesty's Government would have recommended to the Porte the acceptance of the declaration.

I have to request that you will inform M. Waddington that I received on Friday last information of Safvet Pasha's amendment to the Greek proposal, and that I instructed

Mr. Malet on Saturday to the effect that I did not think the amendment unreasonable.

It seems to Her Majesty's Government to render more exactly than is done by the phrase proposed by the Hellenic Commissioners the view that was entertained at the Congress with respect to the frontier indicated.

If, as M. Waddington appears to think, the proposal of the Greeks is a mere formality, they will have no difficulty in accepting Safvet Pasha's amendment. If, however, as Her Majesty's Government are disposed to imagine, it is designed by the Greeks for the purpose of making the Turks commit themselves further than they wish, an exercise of pressure on the part of the Governments would amount to forcing on the Turks, to some extent, the Greek proposals as to the line of frontier; and this policy, as M. Waddington is aware, Her Majesty's Government do not, under the circumstances, consider possible for them to adopt.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 59.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Lascelles.

(No. 63.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 6, 1879, 11·30 P.M.

THE Queen has approved your nomination as Agent and Consul-General in Bulgaria.

No. 60.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Palgrave.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 6, 11·35 P.M.

THE Queen has approved of Mr. Lascelles as your successor at Sophia.

No. 61.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 249.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 6, 11·40 P.M.

THE Queen has approved of Mr. Lascelles as Agent and Consul-General in Bulgaria.

No. 62.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. White.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 6, 11·45 P.M.

IF the Prince of Bulgaria is still at Bucharest pray inform him that Mr. Palgrave's successor will be Mr. Lascelles, now at Cairo, whom I think he will like.

No. 63.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 227.) *Athens, September* 17, 1879.

My Lord,

IN an interview I had with M. Coumoundouros to-day, his Excellency informed me that the Greek Commissioners at Constantinople have been instructed to invite the Representatives of Turkey to suggest, as a basis of negotiation, a line of frontier without entering into the question of whether the terms of Protocol 13 are of an obligatory character or otherwise.

The Greek Commissioners are to act on these instructions after the termination of the fast of Ramazan.

M. Coumoundouros seems to be of opinion that the actual limits of the new line of frontier will, in the end, have to be referred to the decision of the Great Powers, for, although it is possible for the Government to enter into a discussion on the subject, yet, in the face of the country, they cannot of their own accord consent to any alteration in the line indicated in the 13th Protocol of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 64.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 229. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Athens, September* 27, 1879.

A TELEGRAM has been received from the Greek Chargé d'Affaires in Paris stating that he has been informed by the French Minister for Foreign Affairs that, in the course of an interview which took place between your Lordship and M. Waddington, you had stated that Her Majesty's Government, while declining to recommend to the Turkish Government the cession of Janina, would not, however, oppose its annexation to Greece.

It was from the King that I received this information, and His Majesty, in conversing with me on the subject, expressed the lively satisfaction that the contents of this telegram had afforded him, and appeared to be of opinion that the chief obstacle in the way of the accomplishment of the wishes of Greece with regard to the line of frontier was now removed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 65.

Mr. L. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 276.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, September* 18, 1879.

IN my despatch No. 117 of the 18th May last, I had the honour to report to your Lordship that the Servian Government had caused it to be made known to the Jewish community here that any of its members who might wish to establish themselves in other parts of Servia would, on application, receive the requisite official authorization.

The contents of the copies of the document signed by the Servian Finance Minister, M. Vladomir Jovanovitch, on the case of the application of Samuel Pessah, and of my note to M. Ristich in reference thereto, herewith inclosed for your Lordship's information, prove how little aware some of the Servian local authorities, and even the Minister of Finance, can have been of the announcement of the Servian Government to the above effect.

I have, &c.
(For G. F. Gould),
(Signed) LOUIS E. GOULD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 65.

Answer of M. Jovanovich to the Petition of Samuel Pessah.

SAMUEL PESSAH, de Belgrade, a porté plainte par devant moi contre une décision du Natchalnicat de Belgrade, lui défendant d'exercer le petit commerce dans le village de Baraiévo, où il se trouve établi depuis quelque temps, et il m'a prié de casser cette décision du Natchalnicat, et de lui permettre de continuer librement son commerce à Baraiévo.

Par suite de cette plainte des explications ont été demandées, le 2 courant, au même Natchalnicat. Sur quoi, ce dernier a répondu le 14 de ce mois, constatant que le dit Samuel s'était rendu au village de Baraiévo, et y avait ouvert une boutique sans la connaissance de qui que ce soit; et que, par conséquent, se basant sur la lettre de la loi, qui défend aux Juifs de s'établir dans l'intérieur du Natchalnicat, il a dû lui défendre d'exercer le commerce qu'il avait commencé depuis quelque temps.

D'après cette décision du Natchalnicat, sa décision étant tout à fait conforme à la loi, je ne puis non plus donner satisfaction au pétitionnaire, ce dont je l'informe par la présente.

Le Ministre des Finances,
(Signé) V. JOVANOVITCH.

Belgrade, le 28 Juillet, 1879.

Inclosure 2 in No. 65.

Mr. Gould to M. Ristich.

Belgrade, September 15, 1879.

M. le Président du Conseil,

IN the course of the interview I had yesterday morning with your Excellency on the subject of the emancipation of the Jews in this Principality, you were good enough to repeat the assurances you had committed to me in May last, that, notwithstanding the final legislative sanction still required to give legal effect to the above measure, the Government were tacitly permitting the Jews to settle freely in the interior of the country.

It would, however, appear from the official document, a copy of which I venture to transmit herewith for your Excellency's information, that not only some of the local authorities, but even the Minister of Finance cannot yet be aware of the liberal course pursued by the Government towards the Jews.

I take, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 66.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October 7.*)

(No. 277.)

Belgrade, September 18, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of Mr. Vice-Consul Baker's despatch to me of the 15th instant, giving additional evidence of the continued ill-treatment which the members of the Jewish community in Nisch are receiving at the hands of the local Servian authorities.

As the case particularly referred to in the above-mentioned despatch is that of an Austro-Hungary subject, I have communicated it to the Legation here, with the object of hastening the intended appointment of a Vice-Consul of Austria-Hungary at Nisch, as reported to your Lordship in my despatch No. 15, Commercial, of the 10th March, and thereby strengthening the position of Mr. Baker.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

Inclosure in No. 66.

Vice-Consul Baker to Mr. Gould.

Sir, *Nisch, September* 15, 1879.

I REGRET to have to report that the ill-treatment of Jews by the local authorities here is by no means discontinued.

On Saturday last, the 13th instant, Mordecai Mandel, a Hebrew merchant, who carries on business here in partnership with his father, Abram Mandel (the person whose declaration I inclosed in my previous despatch), attended at the Court of First Instance to lodge a complaint against certain persons who had stolen from him a group containing coins to the value of 68*l.* Turkish.

The authorities, instead of hearing his complaint, or instructing the police to investigate the robbery, expelled him from the Court-house and told him to lodge his complaint where he had sought justice before (alluding to the fact that these merchants, who are Austrian subjects, had sought protection here at the British Vice-Consulate). Mordecai Mandel made several subsequent efforts to induce the Court officials and police officers to receive his complaint, but was each time expelled by their pandours.

Abram Mandel, the father, suspected a lad named Solomo Kalberiwas (who bears a bad character) of being concerned in the theft of the group, and went to his house to inquire.

The lad's sister said: "My brother has brought nothing home; if you think otherwise you can search," at the same time turning up the pillows and bed furniture to show that nothing was concealed. The lad now charges Abram Mandel, who is nearly 60 years old, with a criminal assault upon him, and also with illegal search. I believe this charge to be a gross attempt to extort money.

I have brought these facts to the knowledge of the Prefect, and requested him to cause the matter to be investigated, and to order the police to do their duty. But so long as the present Prefect remains in office, it will be difficult for the Jews to obtain justice, as the inferior officers seem only too willing to carry out his policy of oppression.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. BAKER.

No. 67.

Mr. L. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October 7.*)

(No. 281.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, September* 23, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a telegram I have received from Mr. Baker, British Vice-Consul at Nisch, on the subject of the want of justice shown by the local authorities to the Turkish population, and a copy of the note I have sent to M. Ristich, inclosing an extract of the above telegram.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LOUIS E. GOULD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 67.

Vice-Consul Baker to Mr. L. Gould.

(Telegraphic.) *Nisch, September* 23, 1879.

PREFECT has been heard to threaten to leave as little of Nisch behind him as possible, and has ordered demolition of forty more houses, chiefly Turkish. He came poor; he leaves rich.

It is difficult to understand the vice or weakness of a policy which tolerates this official even temporarily.

Inclosure 2 in No. 67.

Mr. L. Gould to M. Ristich.

Belgrade, September 23, 1879.

M. le Président du Conseil,

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Excellency's information, an extract from a telegram I have just received from Mr. Baker, British Vice-Consul at Nisch, on the subject of the treatment to which the Turkish population is exposed:—

"Prefect has been heard to threaten to leave as little of Nisch behind him as possible, and has ordered demolition of forty more houses, chiefly Turkish. He came poor; he leaves rich.

"It is difficult to understand how such an employé can be retained even temporarily."

I take, &c.

(Signed) LOUIS E. GOULD.

No. 68.

Mr. L. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 282.)

Belgrade, October 1, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Mr. Consul-General Palgrave's despatch No. 158 of the 9th August concerning the Bulgaro-Servian frontier at Veliki Izvor, copy of which was inclosed in your Lordship's despatch No. 97 of the 11th ultimo, I have the honour to state, for your Lordship's information, that acting under the instructions left me by Her Majesty's Minister Resident at this Court, I spoke to M. Ristich on the subject, and he assured me that the Servian Government had never entertained any idea of questioning the validity of the Firman of 1833 either at present or ulteriorly. His Excellency explained that the Government had taken exception to any strict adherence to the old "palissade" frontier line, which had been made and rectified at different times at the arbitrary will of local Pashas, but he stated that this objection had been publicly urged, contrary to the wishes of the Russian Government, as soon as the question was brought forward.

His Excellency added that the Bulgarian and Servian Commissioners, who had lately been on the spot, had settled nearly every point satisfactorily, and that the new frontier line, being that specified in the Firman of 1833, would entirely remove the difficulties complained of, namely, villages being separated from their lands.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LOUIS E. GOULD.

No. 69.

Mr. L. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 283.)

Belgrade, October 1, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, for your Lordship's information, an extract from the Report of M. Nicolaïdes, Turkish Consul-General at Nisch, concerning the grievances of the former Turkish landed proprietors, and the copy of a Table he has drawn up enumerating the claimants and the nature of the possessions they lay claim to.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LOUIS E. GOULD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 69.

Extract from Report of M. Nicolaïdes, Turkish Consul-General at Nisch.

OF all the Turkish privileged farmers but five or six are to be found in Nisch, some few having died and the rest having abandoned the country. At the time of the taking of Nisch the Turkish farmers left nearly all their clothing and furniture behind in the

confusion of their flight, and now the Servians refuse to restore them to their lawful proprietors. This loss has caused great distress among numerous families, but their claims remain unsatisfied.

Since the capture of Nisch all the farms, vineyards, and other landed property, together with the live stock on them and the farm implements, have been handed over by the Servian authorities to the tenant-farmers who formerly cultivated the land.

The former rent was levied at the rate of 3 piastres the denoum, and it is calculated that the sum total raised on the land amounted to 2,493,000 piastres. But now the present holders refuse to recognize that they are in any way bound to pay anything excepting their taxes, and in this they are backed up by the authorities, who will not allow the proprietors even to approach their former possessions on the ground that their rights cannot be entertained, and that the peasants who occupy the farms are entitled to their revenues by right of the labour they expend on the land.

Inclosure 2 in No. 69.

TABLEAU des Tchifliks avec leurs Covvanliks, leurs Tchaïrs, et leurs Corous qui se trouvent dans l'Arrondissement de] Nisch, comprenant leur Emplacement, le Nombre des Maisons que chacun d'eux contient, leur Extension, leur Valeur approximative, et enfin le Nom de chaque Propriétaire ou Moutessarif.

Dénomination de chaque Tchiflik, comprenant leurs Covvanliks, leurs Tchaïrs, et leurs Corous.		Dénomination de l'Emplacement de chaque Tchiflik.	Nombre des Maisons contenues dans chaque Tchiflik.	Extension du Terrain en Donoum.	Valeur Approximative de chacun des Tchifliks.	Nom de chacun des Propriétaires ou Moutessarifs sous Tapous.	Observations.
					Piastres.		
Tchiflik Bolcanique	..	Tchapalantcha	30	3,000	100,000	Yunous et Hassan Bey, et leurs orphelins.	Une partie de ce Tchiflik appartient aussi à un prêtre Grec.
,,	1 ..	Ghurcoftcha	4	1,000	35,000	Moustafa Agha et ses frères	
,,	1 ..	Bilountcha	30	4,000	150,000	Hadji Ali Moulla et les fils de Costa.	
,,	1 ..	Balankerva	40	6,000	155,000	Bekir Zadé, Ahmed Bey, et Nihadé Bey.	
,,	1 ..	Zirmekervé	45	7,500	140,000	Yacoubali Ali Agha.	
,,	1 ..	Tchoukoum	45	8,000	150,000	Hadji Ali Agha, et ses frères.	
,,	1 ..	Latentcha	100	10,000	420,000	Bekir Zadé, Moustafa Bey, et Hadji Ali.	
,,	1 ..	Couruhtcha	30	7,000	130,000	Les parents (Moulla) de Moulla Islam Zadé.	
,,	4 ..	Mouramur et Pouteuk ..	95	10,000	250,000	Melek Bey	See Covvanliks, ses Tchaïrs avec les Corous, ont 3,000 donums d'extension, et ont été évalués à 100,000 piastres.
,,	1 ..	Doudoukitta	20	7,000	100,000	Dontourdji Murat Bey.	
,,	1 ..	Satchalnitcha	70	8,000	250,000		
,,	1 ..	Nevessil	10	3,000	60,000	Moustafa Bey, fils de Hadji Ali Zadé Bey.	
,,	3 ..	Medchektcha	25	7,000	200,000	Les orphelins de Bekir Zadé Moustafa Bey et Ahmed Bey.	
,,	1 ..	Tchoupoukatcha	20	8,000	230,000	Zaibée et Nachedée Lanoum, sœurs de Moulla Effendi.	
,,	1 ..	Mitschefitcha	20	6,000	150,000	Bekir Zadé Moustafa Bey et Hadji Ali Moulla.	
,,	1 ..	Tchamourlou	15	4,000	100,000	Les orphelins de Bekir Bey. Zadé Moustafa Bey, et Ahmed Bey.	
,,	1 ..	Forbalí	110	15,000	410,000	Ahmed Bey et les parents de Hadji Omer Zadé et Abdul Hamid Agha.	
,,	1 ..	Virtachta	45	15,000	400,000	Hadji Hassan Bey, Zadé, Halid, et Ahmed Bey.	
,,	1 ..	Mizerassa	40	7,000	200,000	Mundjima Ali Bey et Bekir Bey, Zadé Moustafa Bey.	
,,	1 ..	Inana	10	5,000	60,000	Bekir Bey, Zadé Moustafa Bey, et les fils de Inandji Zadé Moustafa Bey.	
,,	3 ..	Zirtoplantcha et Haktoplantcha	50	10,000	250,000	Bekir Bey, Zadé Moustafa, et les parents Ahmed Bey.	
,,	3 ..	Balatfsa-Nova	80	15,000	410,000	Hadji Bilayet, Zadé Zekira, et les fils de Ahmed Agha.	
,,	1 ..	Zirtarnova	30	8,000	250,000	Les fils de Toodjar et de Askour Zadé, et de Moustar Agha Zadé, Ahmed et Chukriu Hanoum.	
,,	1 ..	Dimtchoftcha	80	20,000	450,000	Bekir Zadé, Moustafa Bey et Ahmed Bey.	
,,	1 ..	Zircarpoutcha	20	7,000	110,000	Islam Agha Zadé Halil, et ses fils.	
,,	1 ..	Birtchentcha	15	7,000	100,000	Les fils de Islam Agha Zadé.	

[1524]

Dénomination de chaque Tchiflik, comprenant leurs Covvanliks, leurs Tchaïrs, et leurs Corous.		Dénomination de l'Emplacement de chaque Tchiflik.	Nombre des Maisons contenues dans chaque Tchiflik.	Extension du Terrain en Donoum.	Valeur Approximative de chacun des Tchiflik.	Nom de chacun des Propriétaires ou Moutessarifs sous Tapous.	Observations.
					Piastres.		
Tchiflik Bolcanique.	1 ..	Belizim	15	5,000	100,000	Les fils de Islam Agha Zadé.	
,,	1 ..	Pialta	30	8,000	100,000	Hadji Hafus et les fils de Moustafa Agha.	
,,	1 ..	Melcoftcha	30	1,000	100,000	Costa Miatodor et son frère.	
,,	1 ..	Velpoula	40	10,000	250,000	Chukriée Hanoum.	
,,	1 ..	Caravia	40	10,000	200,000	Les orphelins de Halil Agha Zadé et Hussein	La moitié de ce Tchiflik appartient à la population.
,,	1 ..	Teherié	40	10,000	250,000	Catalk Hadji Moustafa Agha.	
,,	1 ..	Helghentcha	20	1,000	100,000	Refik Effendi et Chukriée Hanoum.	
,,	1 ..	Ayourale	40	10,000	250,000	Younous Bey et Chukriée Hanoum.	
,,	1 ..	Lescoukin	20	3,000	100,000	Edhem Effendi.	
,,	1 ..	Routin	25	7,000	150,000	Liva Hussein Pacha Zadé, Edhem Bey, Moustafa Agha, et ses frères.	
,,	1 ..	Houm	40	10,000	200,000	Catalk Hadji Moustafa Agha.	
,,	1 ..	Balakamrik	30	8,000	220,000	Moustafa Agha et ses frères.	
,,	1 ..	Zircamrik	30	8,000	220,000	Les fils de Islam Agha.	
,,	1 ..	Zirnbougenia	25	7,000	200,000	Pacha Tchami Cheriffs (Vakif).	
,,	1 ..	Zirmatictcha	50	8,000	250,000	Hadji Rassim Zadé, Mahsout Effendi, Ali Bey Zadé, Mahmoud Bey et sa sœur.	
,,	1 ..	Pastouvia	25	7,000	120,000	Meessoud Bey.	
,,	1 ..	Apourletcha	20	3,000	100,000	Les filles de Hadji Ahmed Agha.	
,,	1 ..	Orktcha	40	8,000	150,000	Nané Mertousson oglou Mouhamed Agha, Zadé Osman Agha.	
,,	1 ..	Passiatcha	30	8,000	110,000	Hadji Bekir Agha Zadé, Chukri Agha.	
,,	1 ..	Biyouk Kirtchemid ..	90	13,000	350,000	Ali Effendi, Bekir Bey Zadé, et Moustafa Bey.	
,,	1 ..	Haspersian	50	7,000	100,000	Isterpoukichali Petro.	
,,	1 ..	Zirkirtchir	30	7,000	100,000	A la famille de Emir Chukri Effendi, Chehmazée Hanoum.	
,,	1 ..	Zavchaitcha	40	10,000	200,000	Hadji Mouyad Agha Zadé, Esfi et Chehsouvar Effendi.	
,,	1 ..	Ramné Devirave ..	40	10,000	200,000	Catalk Hadji Moustafa Agha.	
,,	1 ..	Lebsamié	60	12,000	250,000	Bekir Bey Zadé, Moustafa Bey et Mahmoud Agha.	
,,	1 ..	Zirdingoulé Chenim ..	40	10,000	160,000	Seïd Zadé, Chemsé et Saïdy Effendis.	
,,	1 ..	Chebès	30	7,000	130,000	Youssouph Bey.	
,,	1 ..	Maletintcha	35	7,000	130,000	Moustafa Bey Zadé, Mahmoud Bey et sa sœur.	
,,	1 ..	Ofsenitcha	20	6,000	130,000	A la sœur de Rubeli Mahmoud Effendi.	
,,	1 ..	Balavirtoub	60	10,000	180,000	Delalbachi Moustafa et Boyadji Buslon.	
,,	1 ..	Baladouchinin	30	10,000	150,000	Chukriée Hanoum.	
,,	1 ..	Zirdouchenin	35	8,000	140,000	La fille de Mahmoud Bey Zadé Hassibée Hanoum.	
,,	1 ..	Ghara	20	7,000	100,000	Feïbé Agha.	
,,	1 ..	Melcoftcha	15	5,000	80,000	Chukriée Hanoum.	
,,	1 ..	Delghapoulané	20	6,000	100,000	Hadji Bilassé Zadé Zikria Agha.	
,,	1 ..	Kelié	40	7,000	130,000	La fille de Delal Pacha, Abdoul Hamid Agha.	

Dénomination de chaque Tchiflik, comprenant leurs Cavvanlike, leurs Tchaïrs, et leurs Corous.		Dénomination de l'Emplacement de chaque Tchiflik.	Nombre des Maisons contenues dans chaque Tchiflik.	Extension du Terrain en Donoum.	Valeur Approximative de chaque des Tchiflika.	Nom de chacun des Propriétaires ou Mouteasarifs sous Tapous.	Observations.
					Piastres.		
Tchiflik Bolcanique.	1 ..	Carastakticha	30	10,000	140,000	Abdil Agha.	
,,	1 ,,	Bala-Ayvaké	40	8,000	150,000	En héritage de la fille Hakimée Hanoum, de Moulli Zenil Effendi.	
,,	1 ..	Zirbarbecho	20	600	100,000	A la famille d'Abdoullah Effendi.	
,,	1 ,,	Bélabarbecho	60	12,000	250,000	Abdoul Rahman Bey Zadé, Mahmoud Bey, et Chukriée Hanoum.	
,,	1 ,,	Filassedritcha	15	7,000	100,000	Metiné oglou Yané Tchorbatchi.	
,,	1 ,,	Marniécoutne	10	2,000	80,000	Aux frères de Tchokoun oglou Anedjo.	
,,	1 ..	Dirachouva Coutné ..	40	8,000	200,000	Hadji Katalk Moustafa Aga.	
,,	1 ..	Porcoupcoutné	30	7,000	150,000	Ali Koutch Omer Agha, mais maintenant il a ses orphelins.	
,,	1 ,,	Lazar	10	6,000	100,000	La moitié est au Beytoumal, et l'autre aux frères et aux orphelins de Hussein Bey.	
,,	1 ,,	Emin Koutné	60	1,000	200,000	A la famille de Halil Effendi Eminée, Hanoum et aux parents de Hadji Moulla Dervich Bey.	
,,	1 ,,	Koutné Kavanligui ..	8	2,000	40,000	Boyadji Rustem.	
,,	1 ,,	Redkouté Baremi ..	25	7,000	100,000	Courtbak Youssouf Bey.	
,,	1 ..	Banié	40	10,000	230,000	Bekir Bey Zadé, Moustafa Bey, et Hadji Ali Effendi.	
,,	1 ,,	Pachantcha	80	12,000	260,000	Deli oglou Osman Agha et ses frères.	
,,	1 ,,	Tchuklenia	20	7,000	120,000	A la femme du défunt Milal Effendi, Khalassée Hanoum.	
,,	1 ,,	Tstudné	40	8,000	150,000	Moustafa Effendi.	
,,	1 ,,	Counouvitcha	60	16,000	160,000	Hadji Hafus oglou Moustafa Agha.	
,,	1 ,,	Ramnidoul	20	6,000	160,000	Mahmoud Agha.	
,,	1 ,,	Misertcha	10	2,000	50,000	Ali Touska Cavanlighi Mahmoud Agha.	
,,	1 ,,	Perzi Boroun	3	6,600	150,000	Abbas Bey.	
,,	1 ,,	Soumedouf	15	6,000	120,000		
,,	1 ,,	Ghaberaftcha	40	10,000	260,000	Youssouph Bey.	
,,	1 ,,	Barbé	40	10,000	150,000	Les fils de Pasvand oglou Ali Agha Zadé.	
,,	1 ,,	Effakayoulatché ..	40	8,000	160,000	Les fils de Caramali Ghiorghi et de Manétchorbadji.	
,,	1 ,,	Payatna	40	8,000	150,000	Nané Moutsa Zadé Osman Agha.	
,,	1 ,,	Ghurliné	30	10,000	200,000	Mouffi Salih Effendi.	
,,	1 ..	Passia Palané	20	6,000	170,000	Les fils de Islam Agha Zadé.	
,,	1 ..	Malouchta	90	18,000	400,000	Youssouph Bey et Hussein Bey Zadé.	
,,	1 ..	Kilissouré	10	3,000	550,000	La famille de Carnou Abdi Agha.	
,,	1 ..	Tchetchinlia	60	8,000	200,000	Portali Bekir Bey.	
,,	1 ..	Rusta	40	80,000	230,000	Une partie au Hadji Catalk Moustafa Agha, une autre à la fille de Mahmoud Bey, Nezissé Hanoum ; et le reste à Hadji Hassan Agha.	
,,	1 ..	Doukan	20	8,000	150,000	Chukriée Hanoum.	

Dénomination de chaque Tchiflik comprenant leurs Cavvanlike, leurs Tchaïrs, et leurs Corous.		Dénomination de l'Emplacement de chaque Tchiflik.	Nombre des Maisons contenues dans chaque Tchiflik.	Extension du Terrain en Donoum.	Valeur Approximative de chacun des Tchiflika.	Nom de chacun des Propriétaires ou Mouteasarifs sous Tapous.	Observations.
					Piastres.		
Tchiflik Bolcanique.	1 ..	Mourava Toplanitchassé.	40	10,000	200,000	Les Coftahali Hezir et son frère.	
,,	1 ..	Nevasél	10	4,000	60,000	Nané Moutsa Zadé, Osman Agha.	
,,	1	Kiumeseteha	20	4,000	150,000	Hadji Omer Effendi Zadé, Ismail Effendi et son frère.	
,,	1		6	500	4,000	Aux parents de Cheik Omer Zadé.	
,,	1		5	500	4,000	Akillée et Abarée Hanoum.	
,,	1	Bouia Kavanlighé ..	..	1,500	100,000	Edhem Effendi.	
,,	1 ..	Hadji Medivanha ..	..	10,000	100,000	Medin Agha et Assif Effendi.	
			3,410	631,000	17,288,000		

No. 70.

Consul Zohrab to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 58. Consular.)

Jeddah, September 22, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that Alec Bey, the Kaïmakam of Jeddah, has been removed from his post; his successor has not arrived yet; but the Governor-General, finding that Alec Bey was quite unfit to carry on the duties of his office, has sent the Chief of the Mecca Police to carry on the Administration pending the arrival of the new Kaïmakam.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAS. ZOHRAB.

No. 71.

Major-General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 83.)

Buyukdéré, September 24, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward you Protocol No. 31 of the Bulgarian Boundary Commission, and also a sheet of errata to Protocol No. 22.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 71.

Protocole No. 31.— Séance tenue à Thérapia à l'Hôtel d'Angleterre, le 9 Septembre, 1879.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Major Comte Wedel.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Colonel Baron de Ripp.

Pour la France—
M. le Commandant Lemoyne,
M. le Capitaine Marmier.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Major-Général Hamley.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Orero,
M. le Capitaine Vicino-Pallavicino.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Bogolubow,
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Schnour.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence le Général Tahir Pacha.
Simon Effendi (Papasian).

LA séance est ouverte à 1 heure et demie.
On procède à la lecture du Protocole No. 30.
M. le Colonel Bogolubow présente par écrit les observations suivantes :—

"Lorsque la Commission de Délimitation de la Bulgarie a repris cette année ses travaux, j'ai eu l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de mes honorables collègues, à la séance du 18 Avril, que, d'après les nouvelles instructions que j'avais reçues je devais m'abstenir de voter dans toutes les questions de principe sur lesquelles il n'y aurait pas unanimité d'avis. En formulant mon attitude future, j'ai ajouté que je désirerais que la

Commission laissât en suspens pendant un certain temps les questions de principe sur lesquelles je ne pourrais pas partager l'opinion des autres Délégués.

"La Commission a pris acte de cette déclaration en l'insérant au Protocole No. 14. D'ailleurs, il résulterait de ma déclaration même que je ne pouvais prendre part aux délibérations de la Commission qu'aux conditions formulées ci-dessus.

"Dans tous les travaux de la Commission, qui succédèrent à cette première séance, on a heureusement pu établir l'unanimité voulue sur toutes les questions de fond; aucun obstacle sérieux ne s'est présenté à l'accomplissement de la grande tâche qui nous a été confiée et toute la ligne-frontière entre la Bulgarie d'une part, et la Roumélie Orientale et la Turquie proprement dite d'autre part, a été fixée dans tous ses détails.

"Mais à la séance du 26 Juillet un des membres de la Commission à mis sur le tapis une question complétement nouvelle, et qui, ne dérivant plus du texte du Traité, était basée sur les Protocoles du Congrès de Berlin—la question d'une route militaire pour la Turquie à travers la Principauté de Bulgarie: elle a été abordée à la séance du 2 Août. Cette question se présentant à mes yeux comme question de principe, j'ai déclaré ne pouvoir suivre la Commission dans la voie où elle s'engageait et j'ai présenté mes raisons. L'incident a été clos par la proposition de M. le Délégué d'Italie de remettre la discussion à huitaine afin 'de laisser au Commissaire de Russie la faculté de solliciter de son Gouvernement des instructions spéciales'—ce qui a été accepté.

"A la suite du rapport que je lui ai présenté, le Gouvernement Impérial est entré en négociations avec les Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin: ces pourparlers n'ont pas encore abouti. Mais la Commission a jugé que puisque le terme, auquel la délibération a été remise, était déjà expiré, elle n'était pas tenue d'attendre plus longtemps. En conséquence et malgré mes protestations, la question à été discutée à la séance du 22 Août.

"Ne croyant pas, jusqu'à nouvel ordre de mon Gouvernement, la Commission compétente à se prononcer sur ladite route militaire, je me suis vu obligé de déclarer, que tout disposé que j'étais de me renseigner, dans une discussion privée, sur les opinions de mes collègues, je ne pourrais assister à la délibération en séance comme représentant officiel de la Russie. En maintenant ce point de vue, j'ai l'honneur de prier la Commission d'exclure du Protocole de la séance du 29 Août tout ce qui se rapporte à la question de la route militaire, vu que cette question a été débattue entre six Commissaires et non pas en séance plénière; faute de quoi et conformément à ce que j'ai porté à la connaissance de la Commission dès le début de nos réunions officielles—je ne me croirais pas en droit d'apposer au Protocole ma signature

(Signé) "A. Bogolubow."

Le Président donne acte au Commissaire de Russie de sa déclaration, et invite la Commission à se prononcer sur la demande qui l'accompagne.

M. le Colonel Orero propose de scinder en deux le Protocole, afin de restreindre le plus possible le champ des contestations.

M. le Colonel de Ripp, jugeant qu'il est impossible de déférer au désir exprimé par le Commissaire de Russie en tronquant un Protocole, appuie cet amendment.

M. le Général Hamley repousse au contraire et la proposition et l'amendement; il croit plus correct de ne pas modifier la procédure habituelle, et de constater simplement le refus du Commissaire de Russie d'apposer sa signature au bas du Protocole No. 30.

M. le Colonel Orero demande au Colonel Bogolubow s'il accepte son amendement. Celui-ci répond qu'il s'y ralliera si sa proposition est rejetée. Le Commissaire d'Italie fait alors observer que l'amendement aura pour lo vote la priorité.

M. le Commandant Lemoyne estime que l'amendement ne résout rien; car il résulte de la note même du Colonel Bogolubow, qui sera insérée en tête du Protocole No. 31, que le Commissaire de Russie ne conteste pas la première partie du Protocole No. 30.

Comme Président, il met aux voix l'amendement du Colonel Orero, bien qu'il constate qu'il ne s'appuie sur aucun précédent.

Le Commissaire d'Allemagne, d'Autriche-Hongrie, d'Italie, et de Russie votent oui; les Commissaires de la Grande Bretagne et de Turquie votent non; le Commissaire de France s'abstient.

Le Commissaire Ottoman motive son vote contraire en rappelant que la Commission avait abordé la discussion, après s'être déclarée compétente par un vote. En acceptant l'amendement, on semblerait faire une distinction entre une partie du Protocole et l'autre.

Après la clôture de l'incident par l'adoption de la proposition du Colonel Orero, le Commissaire de Russie appose sa signature dans le corps du Protocole après l'alinéa

relatant sa déclaration qu'il cesse d'assister officiellement à la séance, et les six autres Commissaires signent au bas du Protocole.

Le Président communique à la Commission la dépêche suivante du Capitaine Anglais Anderson, membre de la Commission de Serbie, en réponse à un télégramme du Général Hamley.

"La Commission Serbe a adopté exactement la ligne de partage des eaux entre Pataritza et Crni Vrh. J'ajouterai à la première feuille les 4 kilom. et j'enverrai un tracé pour faire accorder votre exemplaire avec le nôtre."

Cette dépêche éclaircit complétement les doutes qui avaient été exprimés à la précédente séance.

M. le Colonel Bogolubow présente à la Commission les cartes Russes, que le Général Jarnefelt lui a envoyées avec une extrême ponctualité avant l'expiration des délais fixés par lui à la Délégation de l'Ouest. Il ajoute que le dessin relatif à la lacune existant dans le voisinage de Sinianova Czuka arrivera incessamment, ayant été déjà expédié de Sophia, et qu'ainsi la Commission aura en mains toutes les cartes nécessaires à l'achèvement du travail de délimitation.

Le Président remercie M. le Colonel Bogolubow du dépôt de ces cartes, et il le prie de transmettre au Général Jarnefelt l'expression des remerciements de la Commission. Il remarque que le dernier envoi des cartes Russes comprend la carte de la partie de la frontière Roumélio-Bulgare entre la Sumnatica et le Manchou, point de rencontre des trois frontières de Turquie, de Bulgarie, et de la Province de Roumélie, et qu'il sera par conséquent facile de joindre au croquis-annexe de l'Acte du 14 Août, une feuille complémentaire représentant cet élément de la ligne-frontière.

M. le Colonel de Ripp demande qu'on inscrive sur ce dessin une légende explicative, développant le texte un peu concis de la partie relative de l'instrument diplomatique.

Le Président invite la Commission à reprendre la discussion de la frontière Danubienne de la Bulgarie.

M. le Colonel de Ripp déclare que de nouvelles instructions l'obligent à modifier l'attitude qu'il avait jusqu'ici observée dans la discussion. Il veut voter pour le maintien du *statu quo ante bellum*. Considérant l'utilité d'une bonne définition du thalweg, il ne demande pas cependant à la Commission de revenir sur le vote déjà acquis de l'Article 2, mais il la prie d'ajouter à cet Article un second alinéa, réservant à la Roumanie les îles qui lui avaient été dévolues par l'Acte de Délimitation de 1830, et donnant à la Bulgarie celles que cette Acte avait attribuées à la Turquie. Cette solution concilierait ses instructions avec les votes antérieurs de la Commission.

M. le Général Hamley demande si des précédents peuvent être invoqués à l'appui d'une telle manière de faire.

M. le Colonel Orero répond affirmativement en citant l'Acte Final de Délimitation de la frontière Austro-Sarde, de Peschiera, le 16 Juin, 1860. Quoique le thalweg du Pô servit de limite aux deux Etats, l'Autriche conserve comme enclaves les territoires au sud de cette ligne.

M. le Colonel Bogolubow combat la proposition du Colonel de Ripp, en rappellant que la Commission s'est refusée à entrer dans l'examen des contestations portant sur plusieurs îles du Danube, et qu'elle s'est décidée, pour couper court à tous les différends, à adopter le thalweg pour ligne-frontière. C'eût été résoudre à l'instant le plus opportun et d'une façon définitive tous les litiges pendants. La proposition du Colonel Ripp non-seulement porte atteinte à une décision antérieure et ressuscite un débat déjà épuisé, mais elle tend à perpétuer les contestations entre les deux Etats riverains. Il conviendrait tout au moins, à son sens, que la Commission, avant de prendre un parti, fût exactement renseignée sur les conséquences de l'adoption de la nouvelle proposition; les cartes jusqu'ici mises entres les mains des Commissaires sont insuffisantes, et il faudrait attendre l'achèvement de la carte du Danube en cours d'exécution. Pour ces motifs, le Commissaire de Russie repousse la proposition.

Le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie répond à cette argumentation que sa proposition peut se concilier avec le maintien du thalweg comme ligne générale frontière. Indépendamment du précédent, indiqué par le Colonel Orero, il pourrait relever dans le texte de maints Traités des indications telles que celle-ci: "La frontière suivra la ligne de partage des eaux entre tel et tel point; toutefois tel village sera attribué à tel Etat." Il montre que sa proposition n'offre pas les inconvénients prétendus. Le Traité d'Andrinople ayant réparti nominativement entre les deux parties intéressées les îles existant alors au milieu du lit du Danube, ces îles n'ont pu donner lieu jusqu'ici à aucune contestation sérieuse; mais il en est différemment des îles formées depuis 1830. La proposition en discussion attribue ces dernières à l'un ou à l'autre Etat suivant leur situation à droite ou à gauche

du thalweg; elle ne crée d'exceptions à la règle générale que pour les îles figurant sur la carte des délimitateurs de 1830.

M. le Commandant Lemoyne partage cet avis, et indique qu'on pourrait dans les parties du cours du fleuve où il y aurait lieu d'englober dans la frontière d'un Etat une île située au-delà du thalweg, substituer au thalweg principal un thalweg secondaire.

M. le Colonel de Ripp préfère ne jamais s'écarter du thalweg principal, et admettre des enclaves dans le territoire voisin.

M. le Général Hamley croit que de toutes les solutions possibles celle du thalweg reste la meilleure, parce qu'elle ne laisse subsister aucune contestation. Sans préjuger de l'importance des modifications subies par le thalweg depuis 1830, il ne saisit pas bien la grandeur des intérêts engagés, attendu que l'altération de la frontière n'entraîne aucune mutation de propriété, mais simplement des mutations de souveraineté. Il n'y a là aucun intérêt militaire, et qu'un intérêt fiscal insignifiant.

M. le Colonel de Ripp demande la mise aux voix de sa proposition, qu'il formule de la façon suivante:

"Toutefois, pour ne porter aucune atteinte aux droits précédemment établis, toutes les îles situées à droite du thalweg, qui dans la délimitation exécutée en vertu du Traité spécial d'Andrinople, en date du 2/14 Septembre, 1829, relatif aux Principautés de Moldavie et de Valachie, ont été attribués à ces Principautés, resteront comme enclaves à la Roumanie,—toutes celles qui, situées à gauche du thalweg, ont été attribuées aux provinces de la rive droite du Danube, feront partie de la Bulgarie."

Il propose d'en faire le second alinéa de l'Article 2 de l'Acte Diplomatique.

La proposition est mise aux voix. Les Commissaires d'Autriche-Hongrie, de France, et d'Italie votent pour son adoption. Le Commissaire de Russie vote non, en demandant le renvoi de la décision à une séance ultérieure, afin de pouvoir recueillir un complément de renseignements. Les Commissaires d'Allemagne, de Grande Bretagne, et de Turquie, réservent leur opinion; ce dernier promet de donner son vote le 13 Septembre.

Le vote n'ayant donné aucun résultat est en conséquence renvoyé à la prochaine séance.

Le Commissaire de Russie demande alors la parole et donne lecture à la Commission du Mémoire suivant:—

"Au Congrès de Berlin les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans, en demandant la concession à la Turquie d'une route militaire à travers la Bulgarie pour réunir les Cazas de Rahmanli, d'Ichtiman, et de Tatar-Bazardjik à celles de Pristina et d'Eskup, ont basé cette demande sur ce que la configuration du terrain s'oppose à la construction d'autres lignes de communication que celles qui existent actuellement à travers le Sandjak de Sophia.

"La Commission de Délimitation de la Bulgarie, en abordant la question de la route militaire, n'a pas mis en doute l'exactitude de cette supposition, qui cependant ne répond pas à la réalité. C'est pourquoi je me fais un devoir d'exposer devant mes honorables collègues les données exactes sur les routes les plus courtes, qui passant au-delà des frontières de la Principauté, réunissent la vallée de la Haute Maritza à celle de la Strouma près Djouma, ainsi que Djouma avec Egri-Palanka, c'est-à-dire avec la grande route de Pristina et d'Eskub. Ces voies de communication, dont la plus grande partie est praticable pour les arabas, quoique l'art n'y ait pas contribué beaucoup, démontrent suffisamment que la configuration du terrain ne s'oppose nullement à la construction de très-bonnes routes.

"1. De Tatar-Bazardjik à Djouma par Mahomia il y a une route directe, dont on se sert pour le commerce local et qui, en partie, est carrossable. Elle se dirige sur le village d'Ortakioj (de Tatar-Bazardjik 6½ heures, dont 1½ carrossable) et de là soit par le village de Tchepina, soit par celui de Lajeni jusqu'à la passe d'Abramova-Gora, 4-5 heures); la partie entre Ortakioj et les deux villages indiqués est carrossable; après la passe d'Abramova-Gora la route suit les vallées du Mesta-Karasou et de l'Izvor, jusqu'à Mahomia. De Mahomia à Djouma la route passe par Perim-Dag; d'après les indications des habitants on a déjà commencé à construire une chaussée entre ces deux localités.

"La vallée de la Haute Maritza est encore reliée à celle du Mesta-Karasou par une communication entre Belova et Abramova-Gora. De Belova par le Mont Allabague (partie parfaitement carrossable), la route, praticable pour les arabas quoique difficile, descend au village de Kamenitza, dans la vallée de la Tchepina (6-8 heures) en rejoignant ainsi la route directe de Tatar-Bazardjik à Mahomia. De l'Allabague on peut aller dans une autre direction, par les vallées de la Jadenitza, de la Joundola, et d'un des affluents de la Loukovitza, et rejoindre (9 heures) le vallée du Mesta-Karasou, près d'Abramova-Gora; cette route est préférable pour les arabas, quoique elle soit la plus longue et la moins fréquentée, à cause de son éloignement de tout village.

"Les distances totales de la vallée de la Haute Maritza jusqu'à Djouma sont à peu près de 20 heures.

"De Djouma à Egri Palanka par Tzarévo-Sélo une communication par des chemins carrossables existe depuis longtemps; cette voie est praticable aux voitures à buffles ou à bœufs, et même au besoin aux voitures à chevaux.

"Entre Djouma et Tzarévo-Sélo il y a trois routes:

"1. La route la plus courte et la plus facile se dirige par le village de Gromade, passe à gué la Strouma près du Tchiflik Déliamzine et par les villages de Selichté, Logodache, Klissoura, Svegor, et aboutit à Tzarévo-Sélo (6-7 heures).

"2. Une autre route se dirige sur Tzarévo-Sélo (6-7 heures) par les villages de Pokrovnik, Lechko, Lechnitza, et Grad.

"3. Le chemin le plus long commence à la chaussée près du pont de Barakovo, se dirige sur le Tchiflik Kerdjevo, les villages Drenovo, Lissia, Klissoura, et aboutit par Toursko-Gabrovo à Tzarévo-Sélo. Cette route sert de communication pendant l'hiver et le débordement des rivières; sa longueur est de 9 heures.

"De Tzarévo-Sélo à Egri-Palanka il y a une route directe par Kotchine; une autre route par Kotchine et Kratovo rejoint la grande route entre Egri-Palanka et Koumanovo.

"1. La route entre Tzarévo-Sélo et Kotchine passe par les villages de Biglo, Kalimantzi, Vinnitza (12 heures; à cheval 8 heures).

"De Kotchine à Egri-Palanka la route directe passe à l'ouest de Tzarev-Vrh. Elle est en voie d'amélioration: on y construit une chaussée.

"2. De Kotchine par Banja, Svilanovo, Dreveno, et Zlétovo à Kratovo il y a 6 heures (à cheval 4 heures), et par Spantchevo, Plechnitza, et Chlegovo 4 heures.

"A partir de Kratovo il y a une bonne route, d'une distance de 4 heures, qui conduit à Tchifté-Chané, sur la grande route d'Egri-Palanka à Koumanovo.

"Ainsi la distance totale de Djouma à Egri-Palanka est à peu près de 30 heures.

"*Buyukdéré le* $\frac{28\text{ Août}}{9\text{ Septembre}}$, 1879.

(Signé) "A. BOGOLUBOW."

Le Président donne acte au Commissaire de Russie de cette note qui figurera au Protocole.

Il lève ensuite la séance à 4 heures 45 minutes, la prochaine séance étant fixée au 13 Septembre.

(Signé) WEDEL.
RIPP.
J. V. LEMOYNE.
E. B. HAMLEY.
B. ORERO.
A. BOGOLUBOW.
M. TAHIR.

Certifié conforme à l'original:
(Signé) P. PODSTAWSKI.
G. MARMIER.
F. VICINO-PALLAVICINO.
N. SCHNEUR.
SIMON PAPASIAN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 71.

ERRATA.

Protocole No. 22.

P. 10, ligne 27.—Au lieu de "le Commissaire de Turquie," lire "le Commissaire de Grande Bretagne."

P. 11.—Remplacer la dernière phrase de l'alinéa No. 2 par celle-ci: "Cette proposition mise aux voix fut repoussée, et une autre, donnant la crête militaire jusqu'aux deux sommets les plus voisins à droite et a gauche, fut adoptée à l'unanimité."

Croquis de la Frontière entre la Bulgarie et la Roumélie Orientale.

Feuille No.	1.—Au lieu de	"Chouvé Déré"	lire	"Chivté Déré."
" "	3.	"	"Poulouv Tépé"	"	"Pilav Tépé."
" "	3.	"	"Kaiardi"	"	"Tchiflik."

Feuille No.	3.—Au lieu de	"Karaveliar"	lire	"Karaveliler."
" "	4.	"	"Tcholie Kavak"	"	"Tchali Kavak."
" "	5.	"	"Malainetz"	"	"Tadjaracha."
" "	9.—Au mamelon situé à 1,000 mètres environ au nord de la passe de Travna, mettre le nom de "Mrazietz."				
" "	10.—Au lieu de "Teheroumek"			lire	"Tchetchoumek."
" "	11.	"	"Malovoska Poliana"	"	"Maloboska Poliana."
" "	13.	"	"Klissura"	"	"Rachmanli."
" "	14.	"	"Kosnitza"	"	"Klissura."
" "	14.	"	"Rachmanli"	"	"Kosnitza."
" "	16.—Le nom de Rajeva Glava se rapporte au sommit situé à l'ouest de celui où il est indiqué.				
" "	26.—Au lieu de "G. Ikounitza" lire "G. Ikounita."				

No. 72.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 264.)

My Lord, *Philippopoli, September* 24, 1879.

I MENTIONED in my despatch No. 261 of the 20th instant that some Turkish refugees had been badly treated on their return to a village in the Karadja-Dagh district, at the foot of the Lesser Balkans, and I beg to inclose the statement that was made to me on that subject by three of the refugees in question.

As it has been alleged in certain quarters that the ill-treatment of the Turkish refugees has been much exaggerated, I thought it advisable to make an excursion into the Karadja-Dagh district for the purpose of verifying the story told in the accompanying document.

A drive of three hours brought me to what was once the site of the Turkish village of Korondjifly. Here I found twenty-three families of Turkish refugees, who had only the day before received back their lands from some Bulgarian refugees of Demotica, in the Vilayet of Adrianople, whom the Russian authorities had induced to settle there, and who had that day left for Philippopoli on their return to Demotica.

The Bulgarians had sold to the Turks, at the rate of 10 piastres (1*s.* 8*d.*) each, the huts or wigwams in which they had lived, and which the Turkish refugees, male and female, were busily repairing and making to a certain extent weatherproof by an application of mud to the branches and twigs of which the huts were constructed.

The appearance of the encampment was desolate in the extreme. A few fragments of wall alone showed that the site had once been occupied by a settled population, and it was evident that the greater part of the sunburnt bricks of which the houses had been built had been carted away. The same course was still being pursued with regard to the stones and bricks of the ruined mosque. The Bulgarian inhabitants of the large and prosperous village of Yünkieui were making use of the materials in the construction of a school-house, which I visited on my return to Philippopoli. The Turkish refugees complained bitterly of this act of spoliation, and I have reason to believe that satisfaction will be given to them in the matter. They also felt very much the want of axes—implements that come under the category of the arms for which they have been searched on their return to Eastern Roumelia, and without which they naturally find it difficult to repair their miserable huts. The entire community was only in possession of two or three axes borrowed from a neighbouring Bulgarian village. Their fields had evidently been very rudely cultivated by the temporary Bulgarian tenants, for the greater part were overgrown with rank weeds. A few small heaps of Indian corn and two or three strings of pepper pods represented the only apparent means of sustenance during the coming winter, being no doubt the Turkish share of the Bulgarian harvest. Not a single animal or fowl shared this painful scene of misery and desolation.

After a further drive of one hour I reached the village of Hamar Asik (Kydyrshyk). Here a most extraordinary sight presented itself. Every house in the village, excepting two or three, had been vertically bisected from the gable to the very foundations, leaving the chimney stack, which had once stood in the middle of the building, half of which remained standing, while the other half had been carried away.

In some fields and vineyards adjoining the village the Bulgarians were busily setting up the amputated parts of those houses, with no apparent consciousness of doing wrong.

Some of these remarkable dwellings were nearly finished, while several heaps of stones, bricks, tiles, and rafters showed the other sites which had been selected for the same purpose. The number of dwellings to be thus erected was thirty-five.

The circumstances under which these singular arrangements were being carried out proved to be as follows:—

During the war, the neighbouring Bulgarian village of Sögütdzik (Souïtchouk) was entirely destroyed by the Turkish irregulars. Its inhabitants, who had cultivated very little land of their own, and who had mostly found employment on the lands of the Turks of Hamar Asik (Kydyrshyk), took possession of the latter village on the flight of the Turkish proprietors, and cultivated its lands for their own account.

About a fortnight ago, the Bulgarians having been informed that the Turkish inhabitants were on their way back, determined to destroy the Turkish houses and build with the materials new houses for themselves. But the local priest dissuaded his flock from carrying out that plan, and induced them to accept the alternative of dividing the houses with the returning Turks. By the priest's advice, it was intended that half the village should be given back to the Turks. The village being built on a stream which cuts it into two equal portions, the houses on the right bank were to have been given to the Turks, and those on the left bank to have been retained by the Bulgarians. But this arrangement was subsequently altered, owing, the Bulgarians state, to the opposition of the Turks, who also, according to the statements of the former, had at last consented to the mitigation of their houses. This assertion was, however, indignantly denied by all the Turks, except two, who explained that, on the Bulgarians announcing their intention of cutting the houses in half, they had said to the Bulgarians: "You are stronger than we, and we are at your mercy; therefore you can do as you please."

It was evident, however, from the recriminations by which these explanations were accompanied, that the Bulgarian villagers had considered themselves entitled both to appropriate one half of each Turkish house and to establish themselves on a part of the fields and vineyards of the Turks. The former right they claimed from the fact that, by occupying the houses of their late employers, they had saved the buildings from destruction, while the erection of their new houses on a fresh site was represented as a law of necessity, the village which they had previously occupied having been situated on a hill to which water had to be fetched from a distance.

When these arguments proved of no avail, the Bulgarian peasants appealed to the injuries they had suffered at the hands of the Turks. They pointed out two or three tombs, as well as the Turks who had murdered the Bulgarians that were buried in them; but the Turks replied negatively to accusations of the following nature: "You murdered so-and so;" then, "It was your brother who murdered him;" "Well, it was your uncle," &c.; and at the same time charged the Bulgarians with having murdered twenty Turks.

Having been made to understand that such accusations afforded no justification whatever, since the injuries of the past (which were after all of a mutual character) must be thrown into oblivion, the Bulgarian peasants fell back on the only excuse for their conduct, which is to a certain extent admissible.

They pleaded the law of self-preservation, for their own village having been entirely destroyed, and the Turks having been sent to resume possession of the houses which they occupied, they had been forced to provide shelter for their own wives and children.

It thus became evident that the Local Administration was principally responsible for the injustice with which the Turks of Kydyrdjyk had been treated in this case. It transpired that the Bulgarians had applied for advice and assistance at Philippopoli, and that the Turks had made complaint to the authorities of the way in which the judgment of Solomon was being imitated, in defiance of their well-established rights. The "bailli" was cognizant of all the circumstances, and the local zaptieh had made a special report on them.

It is, therefore, not surprising that the Bulgarians should have taken the law into their own hands; especially as "nine-tenths" of that law were already on their side, together with an adequate supply of Russian rifles and ammunition.

I am, however, happy to say that, since the attention of the Administration has been called to this extraordinary case, measures are in progress for the redress of the grievances to which my notice had been attracted.

On my return to Philippopoli, I made a slight *détour* in order to view the ruins of a Turkish village which had been reported to me as having been entirely destroyed within the last four weeks. The destruction had certainly been very effectively carried out, for there was not a wall left of the cottages which had constituted the once flourishing village of Kara Hamidli.

A Bulgarian peasant, whom I found on the spot, innocently testified that the village had been "carried away" a month ago, on the return of the Turkish inhabitants to Philippopoli.

After the evidence thus obtained, it is impossible not to believe the truth of the Turkish statements, to the effect that seven Mussulman villages have suffered a similar fate in the immediate neighbourhood of Kydyrdjyk within the last month.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

P.S.—The inclosed extract from the "Philippoupolis" of the 24th instant refers to the manner in which the refugees who attempted to return to one of the above-mentioned villages have been treated.

T. M.

Inclosure in No. 72.

Statement of Turkish Refugees of Kydyrshyk.

ALI PEHLIOAN, of Kydyrshyk (Karadja-Dagh district), states that a week ago he went, with his and twenty-one other Turkish families, to his village, with a pass given them by the Repatriation Commission. On arriving at the village, the gymnasts of Souïtchouk, a neighbouring Bulgarian village, to the number of 100, met them. The leader of the gymnasts ordered the men and the women to separate into two rows, and caused the men to be searched for arms. Then he ordered the women to be searched by his men, but, on the remonstrance of Ali Pehlivanoglou, he caused the Turkish women to be searched by Bulgarian women. Then the Bulgarians searched the carts of the Turks, and slit open even their mattresses. They took away twenty-eight pieces of clothing, alleging that it was stolen property, formerly belonging to the Bulgarians; but they took no money.

Two days before the Turks returned the Bulgarians had begun to destroy their houses. They continue doing so to this day.

Ali Pehlivanoglou remained at Kydyrshyk one night and part of a day, during which time the Bulgarians pulled down half of his house. The house consisted of four rooms; the Bulgarians destroyed two, leaving the other two to Ali, and saying that now they had squared their account.

With the materials of the houses they destroy the Bulgarians build up new houses for themselves in the fields of the Turks.

The Bulgarians also partially destroyed thirteen other houses while Ali Pehlivanoglou was at Kydyrshyk. Two days before his arrival, three other houses had been completely levelled with the ground. About half the village remains intact, and is inhabited by the Bulgarians of Souïtchouk.

The latter have threatened the Turks with their vengeance if the Turks make any complaint to the authorities.

Philippopoli, September 20, 1879.

No. 73.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 265. Most Confidential.)
Philippopoli, September 24, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 264 of this date, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that M. Schmidt, the Director of Finance, accompanied me on my excursion to the Karadja-Dagh district, and that, in accordance with arrangements made with him, I have omitted the mention of his name in the despatch above mentioned, in order that the fact of his having instituted an official inquiry at the instigation of a British Consular officer should not be made public in a Blue Book, M. Schmidt being much blamed for having made the inquiry in my presence both by his Bulgarian colleagues and by the Russian Consul-General, who has pointed out to him that "even the Turkish Government does not admit the participation of foreign Consuls in official inquiries."

The result of the inquiry has, however, justified the action of M. Schmidt, while it has also proved to the Local Government that even one of the most incredible stories reported to this Consulate-General is entirely correct.

The Governor-General loudly professed his indignation at the Council when M. Schmidt read his Report, and even threw the document on the ground, with vows of vengeance against those who kept him ignorant of facts which occurred within a short distance of the seat of Government, and of which he only became cognizant through my agency.

The mayors of the villages mentioned in my despatch No. have been arrested and brought to Philippopoli, and the "bailli" of the district has been summoned to appear before the Governor-General. The Prefect of Philippopoli and other officials have likewise had their attention called in a serious manner to the way in which they have neglected their duties.

Moreover, the Governor-General has announced his intention of making a tour of inspection in the province.

Under these circumstances, I have naturally abstained from making any direct representations to Alcko Pasha and from making the matter public; while, in conversation with members of the Administration, I have done my best to prove that my only object in calling their attention to the condition of the refugees, and generally to the manner in which the affairs of the province are conducted, is to assist them in remedying a state of things which must otherwise result in political calamity and economical ruin.

The only obstacle I encounter in inculcating this explanation of my forced activity is the belief that has been instilled by my Russian colleague in the minds of the Bulgarians, that the object of the British Government is to bring about a Turkish occupation of this province by representing the Local Government as incapable of maintaining the necessary order and tranquillity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 74.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 266.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, September* 26, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a leading article published this day in the "Maritza," and professing to tell the truth on the subject of the treatment which Turkish refugees have received on their return to this province.

It denies that the refugees are subjected to persecution, and alleges that the Bulgarians "make every effort to relieve their sufferings as much as possible."

These statements are not in keeping with the reports which I have forwarded to your Lordship on the strength of more reliable testimony, nor are they consistent with the alarm under which the Governor-General and his Council are now endeavouring to protect the Turkish refugees against well-established violence and tyranny.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 75.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 270.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, September* 26, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith an article from the "Philippoupolis," which acknowledges that the recent action of the European Commission has had a salutary effect, by curbing the exorbitant tendencies of the Bulgarian element in this province. Unlike the "Maritza," the local Greek organ affirms that the Commission has succeeded in attaining "the difficult result of satisfying everybody, and of leaving the best impression on the principal nationalities of Eastern Roumelia."

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 76.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 271.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, September* 26, 1879.

THE Turkish mountaineers of the Kyrdjaly district, in the south-eastern part of this province, having tendered their submission to the Local Government, one of the most specious arguments in favour of the retention of a larger force of militia has been removed, and General Streeker has accordingly succeeded in obtaining the sanction of the Governor-General to the reduction of the militia to the minimum limit prescribed by the Organic Statute.

The reduction is to be effected gradually, within a period of three months.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 77.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 272.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, September* 26, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith the copy of a letter addressed to the "Philippoupolis" of the 23rd instant, in which the state of affairs in this province is very aptly and justly criticized by an "Old Mussulman Official of Philippopoli."

I have, &c
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 77.

Extract from the "Philippoupolis" of September $\frac{12}{24}$, 1879.

ON nous adresse la lettre suivante :—

"M. le Rédacteur,

"Me permettez-vous de recourir à votre estimable journal pour adresser au public intelligent une question qu'il me devient de plus en plus difficile à résoudre ?

"Pourquoi nous a-t-on fait la guerre ? Des diplomates du coin du feu ont tracé avec leurs brillantes plumes que c'était pour faire sortir d'au-dessous de vices invétérées une ère d'égalité et de justice, conforme à l'esprit du siècle. Moi qui ne suis pas diplomate, et qui n'ai plus mon coin de feu, je vois par ce qui se passe autour de moi qu'en nous faisant la guerre on aura voulu simplement intervertir les rôles.

"On nous a octroyé la justice ! l'égalité ! Mais pourquoi alors, lorsque nos compatriotes Bulgares sont armés de pied en cap et lorsqu'ils transforment les champs en des camps, on nous enlève le plus inoffensif canif et on nous empêche même de nous assembler à quatre ou à cinq ? Pourquoi lorsque la province nourrit ses 8,000 miliciens, pas un non-Bulgare ne se voit dans leurs rangs ? Pourquoi lorsque la population de la province est pour une bonne moitié non-Bulgare, les fonctions publiques ne sont pas réparties sur cette proportion ?

"Ne sont-elles pas là les fautes qu'on reprochait à l'ancienne Administration ? Et si oui, pourquoi nous a-t-on fait la guerre au nom de la civilisation ? Encore une fois, serait-ce pour intervertir les rôles ?"

"Un ancien fonctionnaire Musulman de Philippopoli.

"*Philippopoli, le* 11 *Septembre*, 1879."

No. 78.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October 7.*)

(No. 273.) *Philippopoli, September 26, 1879.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith an article published in the "Philippoupolis" of the 24th instant on the subject of the grievances of the Greeks of the district of Kavakly, evidently taken from the petition which I transmitted to your Lordship in my despatch No. of the instant.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 78.

Extract from the "Philippoupolis" of September $\frac{12}{24}$, 1879.

LA position des habitants de Kavakli n'est plus tenable. Bien que ce canton soit exclusivement habité par des Grecs, tous les fonctionnaires publics, à l'exception du bailli, sont Bulgares: Bulgares dans la justice, Bulgares dans la police, Bulgares dans la douane, Bulgares dans le fisc; bref, les Bulgares ont entre leurs mains le pouvoir tant civil que militaire, et font tout ce que l'on peut imaginer contre leurs administrés Grecs.

Ainsi les employés de la Douane, comme les percepteurs, imposent aux paysans toutes espèces de taxes, et les soumettent à d'autres contributions encore, sans leur en dire même la raison. De connivence avec la gendarmerie, les percepteurs des dîmes divisent les gerbes en deux et font ainsi payer aux fermiers double taxe. C'est ainsi que pour sauver leurs récoltes qui étaient menacées d'être dispersées aux quatre vents, les villageois de Micro Monastir ont payé, sans raison plausible, 25 roubles, et ceux de Sinapli la grosse somme de 9,825 piastres.

Les hommes de la justice ne le cèdent pas à ceux des finances: on en signale les mêmes abus. Des Juges ignorants prononcent des arrêts arbitraires, sans se donner même la peine d'ouïr les intéressés ni de les juger conformément à la loi. L'idiome Grec, qui doit être en vigueur dans le pays, est exclu des bureaux de l'Administration, et, par contre, la langue Bulgare y est imposée, quoique les habitants n'en connaissent pas le premier mot.

Le nouveau Juge de Kavakli, Bulgare fanatique, s'il en fut, et, par conséquent, ennemi juré des Grecs, refuse de recevoir des requêtes en leur langue. Du reste, depuis sa nomination comme Juge du pays, cet homme a toujours trouvé le moyen d'éconduire les Grecs, toutes les fois que ceux-ci ont actionné des Bulgares.

Ce n'est pas tout. Il n'y a pas longtemps, un officier Bulgare, accompagné de deux gendarmes, se rendit à Karya pour s'y divertir. Mais comme pour ces sortes de gens il n'y a pas d'amusements possibles sans fêter en même temps la dive bouteille au fond de laquelle ils laissent souvent leur raison, nos trois militaires voulurent confirmer cette vérité. Ainsi, après avoir mangé et bu en conséquence, ils se mirent à battre tous ceux qu'ils rencontraient dans les rues. Les habitants du village, pour échapper à la fureur de ces enragés, prirent leurs familles et s'enfuirent dans les champs. Après cet exploit, les trois ivrognes se rendirent à l'école, dont ils brisèrent les portes, et se saisirent des deux Moukhtars qu'ils amenèrent hors du village on ne sait dans quel dessein.

Le Préfet de Kavakli, informé du fait, dépêcha quelques gendarmes à Karya, avec ordre d'arrêter à l'instant les trois coupables. L'officier, principal moteur de cette scène de désordres, refusa carrément d'obéir aux ordres du Préfet, "Je suis ici," dit-il aux gendarmes, "pour opérer l'arrestation d'une bande de brigands; je n'ai du reste à recevoir aucun ordre de votre Préfet, à qui je me crois bien supérieur en rang." Il n'en fut pas de même des deux soldats qui furent arrêtés et conduits à Kavakli.

Quelque temps après, les autorités de Slivno, chef-lieu du canton, expédièrent sur les lieux deux Juges d'instruction avec mission d'examiner les faits. Ces deux Magistrats procédèrent à un semblant d'interrogatoire, et après avoir fait traduire à leur façon du Grec en Bulgare toutes les pièces de l'accusation, ils les firent signer par les paysans, sans que ses pauvres diables en comprissent un mot du contenu. C'était un guet-apens, comme on va le voir.

Peu de temps après cette procédure sommaire, une sentence émanant des Tribunaux de Slivno, condamnait les habitants de Karya à une amende de 25 pols Impériaux.

Le parjure était le seul, l'unique crime dont on les accusait. Inutile de dire que,

nonobstant leurs protestations, les paysans durent se soumettre bon gré mal gré au jugement rendu contre eux à leur insu. Le 22 donc du mois dernier ils payèrent bel et bien les 25 pols en question. Ainsi, comme on le voit, en Roumélie Orientale les battus paient les amendes.

Ce n'est pas tout encore: oyez et jugez.

Les églises et les monastères Grecs sont l'objet des convoitises des Bulgares qui essaient de les enlever par force aux Grecs, à qui ces lieux consacrés au culte de Dieu appartiennent depuis leur fondation. Ainsi, le 29 Août dernier une bande de Bulgares s'était ruée sur le couvent de la Sainte-Trinité, et peu s'en fallut que les assaillants ne se livrassent à des voies de fait, si les Grecs ne les priaient pas d'attendre encore quelques jours.

Mais ce qui réduit les habitants Grecs au désespoir, c'est que les Bulgares, qui sont maîtres absolus de cette province, qu'ils administrent comme bon leur semble, mettent tout en œuvre pour Bulgariser Kavakli et ses environs. Voici le procédé qu'ils ont employé pour arriver à leur but: on sait que les deux villages Micro et Megalo Monastiri, qui comptent plus de 3,000 âmes, sont exclusivement habités par des Grecs; leur distance moyenne de Kavakli est d'environ une heure. Eh bien! afin que la population Grecque ne prédomine pas à l'époque des élections, les Bulgares détachèrent ces deux villages de la circonscription de Kavakli, et les remplacèrent par deux villages Bulgares. Ils espèrent de cette façon enlever aux Grecs de ce Canton le droit d'envoyer un représentant à l'Assemblée Provinciale.

Nous n'avons jamais douté de la partialité de ces hommes qui, ayant été appelés ici dans le dessein de donner leur avis sur la formation des circonscriptions électorales, n'ont pas hésité à prendre le titre de représentants de la Bulgarie du sud.

Nous avons été le premier à exprimer nos appréhensions à l'endroit de la confiance que les minorités devraient accorder à une Commission, qui se charge de ce qui ne lui regarde pas, se donne des titres contraires à sa mission, et se mêle de critiquer le Traité de Berlin.

Malheuresement nos craintes se réalisent aujourd'hui, et les quelques faits que nous venons d'exposer ne sont qu'un petit échantillon du travail entier de la Commission en question.

Voilà la situation vraie de Kavakli en ce moment. Les informations que nous donnons sont extraites d'un long rapport qu'on nous a présenté avec prière de le livrer à la publicité; mais comme le cadre de notre journal est trop restreint, nous nous sommes bornés à en faire ressortir les points les plus saillants. Ce rapport est signé par les représentants des susdits villages, et portent le sceau des différentes communautés Grecques. D'un bout à l'autre de ce document on voit peint le désespoir des habitants, qui concluent qui si cet état des choses continue ils seront forcés d'abandonner leurs foyers et d'aller chercher un refuge dans les montagnes.

Une députation des habitants de Kavakli a remis la semaine dernière à son Altesse Alcko Pacha une requête dans laquelle ils font appel à sa justice bien connue et le prie instamment d'ordonner dans sa haute sagesse:—

1. Que les deux villages Micro et Mégalo Monastiri fassent de nouveau partie de la circonscription du Canton de Kavakli;

2. Que les Kavakliotes jouissent, au même titre que les Bulgares, des privilèges de l'autonomie, et que, conformément au Statut Organique, et eu égard à leur importance numérique, ils participent aux charges civiles et militaires; et comme ils ne se mêlent pas des cantons où il y a des Bulgares, que ceux-ci n'aient rien à voir non plus dans les cantons habités par les Grecs. C'est le seul moyen, d'après le sens pratique de ces villageois, de voir régner l'ordre, l'accord et la justice dans la Roumélie Orientale.

3. Que leur canton relève directement du Gouvernement Central.

4. Que le procès des gendarmes qui ont maltraité les habitants de Karya soit revu; que les 25 pols payés comme amende soient remboursés et que les coupables soient punis conformément à la loi.

5. Que les percepteurs des dîmes soient traduits en justice pour rendre compte de la gestion de leur emploi, et qu'en cas de condamnation ils restituent l'argent qu'ils ont pris illégalement aux villageois.

6. Que le Gouvernement Central s'occupe du soin d'accorder une protection spéciale au couvent de la Sainte-Trinité, qui, dès le temps de sa fondation, n'a jamais cessé d'appartenir à la communauté de Kavakli et de Karya.

No. 79.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 232. Very Secret.)

Bucharest, September 26, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to the mission of the Finance Minister to Berlin, the following observations may not be altogether without interest to your Lordship:—

M. Stourdza may be said to belong to no political party here; he is known, however, to be imbued with deep patriotic feelings and extremely devoted to his country.

He is strongly anti-Russian, and, on that account, he was most hostile to the late war, and was accused of being a Turcophile; he is, moreover, an excellent, hard-working man of business, thoroughly honest, well trained as a political economist, and one of the best Ministers of Finance this country has ever had.

He returned here from his last visit from Berlin deeply impressed by his conversations with Prince Bismarck (at Kissingen) and with M. von Radowitz, and with a conviction that great further events were expected in these parts of the East, and that the future of his country depended on the friendship and protection of the German Empire and of Austria.

Influenced by his own inclinations, and by the views he had heard expressed at the Berlin Foreign Office, he defended in the Cabinet the adoption of a more comprehensive emancipation of the Jews—more in accordance with the wishes of the Great Powers; but he was opposed by M. Boeresco and overruled by his colleagues.

He has hardly any personal influence in the Chambers, and he even failed in securing a seat in either of them at the last general election.

Very much disheartened, he was inclined to resign within the last few weeks; and I may mention confidentially to your Lordship that I was partly instrumental in persuading M. Stourdza to join M. Bratiano's Cabinet last winter, so I did my best again to induce him to postpone at least his retirement.

In the meantime he was glad to avail himself of the opportunity afforded him to be absent from Bucharest during the discussion in the Chambers of proposals which are not sufficiently liberal to meet his views.

He has, however, come to the unwelcome conviction, that the present party feeling existing in his country is not conducive to any final and satisfactory solution of this question in a legal and constitutional way.

Any other course, however, is not open either to the Prince or to any really patriotic statesman, as it would necessitate recourse to violent constitutional changes, and might possibly ultimately lead to a revolution, abdication, and internal commotions.

Some of the extreme parties, and the Russian partizans who encourage these, care, in reality, but little about the Jews, but are looking forward to some such result as the above.

It is with apprehensions such as these that M. Stourdza has left for Berlin, and he will no doubt express those sentiments there.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 80.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 235.)

Bucharest, September 26, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE on several occasions had the honour to explain to your Lordship the lengths to which party strife is pushed here. The present Ministers have a good working majority in both Chambers, but the Jewish question has rendered some of their own supporters lukewarm or doubtful.

Under those circumstances, and feeling, as they do, that they are at every moment accused of betraying the interests of the country to the foreigner, what they dread most is to see their own proposal, imperfect, as they are told, it is, shipwrecked at the last moment by the loss of one or a few votes required to complete the indispensable two-thirds.

All the means to render the present Legislature amenable to reason or argument appear to have been exhausted, and it is hopeless to expect any more liberal measure of

emancipation either from the present Chambers or from the electoral body at large, who, if appealed to, might send back a still larger number of opponents.

Should the Powers, therefore, continue to be of opinion that the Ministerial Bill, if passed in its present form, is unacceptable even as an instalment, and insufficient to justify their recognition of Roumania as an independent State, they will have to consider between them in what way they wish to regulate their future relations to a Principality situated in this anomalous position. Some new *modus vivendi* will have to be adapted to so unprecedented a state of relations, and replace the present informal ones, which are particularly disadvantageous to Great Britain, as they do not enable us to regulate our commercial interests here by a permanent and satisfactory binding settlement.

Matters have arrived at a Constitutional dead-lock, and there does not appear any other way out of it at the present moment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 81.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 236.)

Bucharest, September 27, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship a few extracts from the speeches of one of the principal leaders of the Boyard Opposition, an advocate, M. Maioresco, and of that spoken in reply by M. Boeresco, the Foreign Minister, in the Chamber of Deputies, during the discussion of the proposal of the Opposition to limit the conferring of political rights on Jews to naturalization acts for each special individual. That proposal has been rejected, as reported by me at the time on the 23rd instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 81.

Précis of Speeches of MM. Maioresco and Boeresco in the Roumanian Chambers, on the proposals of the Opposition on the Jewish Emancipation Question.

M. MAIORESCO: He speaks as Deputy of Jassy, the old capital of Moldavia, and expresses his regret that the motions of adjournment, by which alone the Government could have been forced to produce their own proposals, was not adopted. "We should then," he says, "have had two projects between which to choose." He declares on behalf of the Conservative party that they accept the proposal now under discussion as the only one acceptable at present, and corresponding to the wishes of the country. "We hope further," he says, "that it is the only one (individual naturalization) likely to be accepted by the Powers of Western Europe."

"The new Ministry," he says, "told us on the 11th and 23rd July that they rejected all idea of categories; and one of them tells us to-day that he (M. Cogalniceano) has been favourable to categories since 1864; we know the real opinion of our electors, who are anxious at seeing the Ministers pass from one proposal to another; we are threatened with the anger of Europe, but what is our history since 1856? What has been our attitude since that date? We have asked for the union of the Principalities, we have asked for a foreign Prince, and we have obtained all these after a considerable resistance on the part of the Powers."

He then proceeds to give a history of these events, and advocates acceding to the principles initiated by Article XLIV of the Treaty of Berlin, but such accession "leaves us," he says, "still the right to interpret the sense of that Article which concerns our important internal interests in such a way as we think best to preserve our nationality."

All the remainder of the speech contains arguments to show that Europe and the Jews should be satisfied with such admission to political rights as the Roumanian Chambers feel disposed to bestow on those Jews whom they consider deserving of that privilege.

M. Boeresco in a very long speech gives the history of the Jewish question the last time he was in office. He then proceeds to explain the view taken by the Signatory Powers of the obligations on the part of Roumania to fulfil the stipulations contained in

Article XLIV. He cautions his countrymen as to the dangers they are incurring should they attempt to elude any longer to the fulfilment of that obligation. He says: "One of the most important diplomatists of Europe has told me that although we need not fear so much the breaking out of a new war in Europe, a contingency, however, not improbable, but we ought to apprehend much more the meeting of a future Congress, not such an unlikely event, finding us with the Jewish question unsettled."*

M. Boeresco continues by explaining that foreign Cabinets take quite a different view of Article XLIV than the gentlemen in the Opposition here. "I have not succeeded," he adds, "in persuading them to the contrary, and I can assure you that all my arguments have been to no avail, and that Europe is not to be converted to our interpretation. We shall, therefore, submit to you a Bill containing proposals which will not include either a wholesale emancipation or admission by categories, but one which we trust will fairly compromise all the interests at stake, and whilst your proposal is sure to be rejected in Europe, ours, if adopted by you, though not positively certain of being accepted by the Powers, has, I trust, a better chance of success, which will be very much increased by your supporting it and giving it legislative sanction."

No. 82.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 237.)

Bucharest, September 29, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship in French the Ministerial Report (Exposé des Motifs) presented to the Chamber, together with the proposal for a law amending the Constitution, and regulating the future "Status" of the Jews in this Principality.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 82.

Ministerial Report and Projected Law for amending Article 7 of the Constitution.

RÉVISION DE LA CONSTITUTION.

Exposé des Motifs.

MM. les Députés,

ON trouve rarement dans la vie d'une nation des moments aussi difficiles et aussi sérieux que ceux que nous traversons aujourd'hui. Après avoir fait de nombreux sacrifices, après avoir mérité l'indépendance de notre existence politique, par la bravoure et le sang de nos fils, il faut maintenant que nous passions par d'autres épreuves difficiles et dangereuses afin de défendre cette indépendance contre tout danger et contre tout chocs éventuels qui pourraient compromettre, non-seulement sa durée, mais son existence même. Forcés de nous conformer à un acte international de la valeur de celle du Traité de Berlin, nous nous voyons mis en position de lutter contre des exigences et des difficultés contradictoires, de concilier l'adoption de principes, dont nous reconnaissons et ne contestons aucunement la vérité, avec une application que ne lèse, ni ne détruise d'autres intérêts intérieurs d'un ordre essentiel pour l'existence et la prospérité d'une nation.

L'union, un tact et une prudence exceptionnels seuls, de notre part à tous, peuvent concilier tant d'intérêts divers et surmonter tant de difficultés.

Nous sommes une nation jeune, née d'hier à peine, après tant de siècles d'oppression et d'injustice, pour avoir une vie à elle propre et libre: nous aspirons à entrer de nous-mêmes, par nos propres forces dans la grande famille des États libres de l'Europe: sachons nous mettre à la hauteur de la nouvelle position que nous nous sommes créée et à laquelle nous aspirons, et offrons à l'Europe le spectacle d'un peuple qui est digne d'occuper la place qu'on lui présente et qui peut devenir un centre d'équilibre, d'ordre, et de civilisation pour l'orient de l'Europe.

Nos ancêtres de cette vérité ont su, dans des temps tout aussi graves, traverser des épreuves difficiles et douloureuses pour nous laisser l'héritage que nous possédons aujourd'hui. Imitons-les; montrons-nous dignes d'eux et sachons conserver l'héritage et améliorer le foyer paternel.

Les Chambres précédentes, fidèles à ces traditions, ont déclaré par des votes solennels qu'elles reconnaissaient le Traité de Berlin, et qu'il y avait lieu de réviser l'Article 7 de notre Constitution.

Elles ont fait cette déclaration unanimement, avec abnégation et prévoyance, mettant de côté tout esprit de parti, toute haine, toute réminiscence, de telle sorte, enfin, que nous pouvons affirmer qu'elles ont été à la hauteur de leur mission.

Nous sommes persuadés que les Chambres actuelles de révision, appelées à exécuter ce que la nation a déclaré par sa Diète Nationale passée, n'en agiront pas autrement.

Les projets issus de l'initiative de ces Assemblées ont été retirés ou repoussés: On a bien fait: et nous devons nous féliciter que le projet de la majorité des délégués n'ait pas obtenus la majorité constitutionnelle: car, MM. les Députés, il faut éviter, non-seulement le fait, mais encore l'apparence même d'un acte qui put être interprété comme une provocation, comme un défi jeté aux grandes Puissances de l'Europe. Une pareille imprudence, un pareil soupçon même, pourrait, dans les moments actuels, dans les circonstances délicates ou se trouve aujourd'hui l'équilibre Européen, constituer pour nous un péril, dont les conséquences pourraient nous être fatales et dont les auteurs volontairement se chargeraient d'une responsabilité terrible vis-à-vis de nos contemporains et de nos descendants.

Fidèle à ses déclarations antérieures, le Gouvernement actuel a l'honneur de vous présenter, ci-joint, son projet de révision, qui, en parfaite harmonie avec la volonté de la nation assez clairement manifestée, est en même temps conforme avec le principe compris dans l'Acte International de Berlin et ne lèse pas, ne froisse pas les intérêts réels et légitimes dont doit tenir compte un peuple appelé à exister de sa vie propre et indépendante.

Que votre vote, MM. les Députés, donne à ce projet la sanction légale dont il a besoin et l'Europe, se convainquant davantage encore qu'il est l'expression de la volonté de la nation tout entière qui, adoptant et exécutant avec franchise et loyauté les principes de la civilisation moderne, s'est préoccupée seulement de la conservation et de la défense de ses intérêts nationaux et économiques, l'Europe, disons-nous, consentira, nous en avons la ferme conviction, à reconnaître que le peuple Roumain mérite d'être admis au nombre des nations Européennes, et de voir garantir son existence par la solidarité des liens qui se forment entre les Etats qui ont entr'eux des relations établies de réciprocité.

Le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères,

(Signé) B. BOERESCO.

Projet de Loi.

Article unique.—Au lieu de l'Article 7 de la Constitution, que l'on révise, on mettra ce qui suit:—

Article 7. La différence de religion et de confession ne constitue pas en Roumanie un empêchement à l'obtention et à l'exercice des droits civils et politiques.

§ 1. Les étrangers, de n'importe quelle religion, pourront obtenir la naturalisation par des lois spéciales et individuelles.

Les mêmes droits s'accordent à ceux qui, sans être Roumains, se trouvent en Roumanie, comme sujets Roumains.

§ 2. Ne pourront acquérir, sous aucun prétexte, des propriétés—à l'exception de vignes, de terrains ou de maisons dans l'intérieur des villes—que ceux qui sont citoyens Roumains, tout en respectant cependant les droits de ceux qui les posséderaient en vertu de lois antérieures ou de Traités existants entre la Roumanie et d'autres Etats.

§ 3. Tous les habitants qui, au moment de l'annexion, étaient au nombre des citoyens Ottomans, dans la province Roumaine trans-Danubienne, de la Dobroudja, déclarée partie intégrante de la Roumanie, participent à tous les droits des Roumains, conformément au régime spécial que les Chambres promulgueront pour cette province.

La restriction relative à l'acquisition des propriétés rurales n'est pas applicable à la Dobroudja.

§ 4. Les personnes nées et élevées en Roumanie jusqu'à leur majorité et qui n'auront jamais bénéficiée d'une protection étrangère seront de droit dispensées de tout stage, lorsque les Chambres admettront leur demande de naturalisation.

§ 5. Sont déclarés citoyens, cette seule et unique fois les sujets Roumains, de n'importe quelle religion, qui se sont assimilée à la nation et dont les noms et les qualités seront votés par les Chambres en même temps que cette loi.

* This remark attributed to Herr von Radowitz at Berlin.

Ceux d'entr'eux qui, dans l'espace d'un an de leur admission comme citoyens, n'auront pas réclamé leur diplôme d'indigénat, seront déchus des droits qu'on leur accorde.

(Suivent les signatures de MM. les Ministres.)

No. 83.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 239.)

Bucharest, October 1, 1879.

My Lord,

THE seven Delegates from the different Bureaux of the Chamber, for reporting on the Ministerial proposal, have been selected, and of these six are favourable to the Bill of the Government.

The discussion in the Chambers will not commence till next week.

I have heard a variety of figures quoted on the subject of the votes mentioned as likely to be recorded for and against the proposal.

Those reported for the Bill are between 80 and 94; those against it from 40 to 48; but nothing positive or perfectly reliable is known.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 84.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 845.)

Therapia, September 24, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copies of a letter to Sir Henry Layard and its inclosure, which were placed in my hands yesterday by Monsignor Gerassimos, Archbishop of Philadelphia, representing his Beatitude the Patriarch of Jerusalem.

These papers relate to the differences with Roumania concerning the Holy Places which were touched upon in the 15th Protocol of the Congress of Berlin. The first is a letter to Her Majesty's Ambassador, requesting him to bring the inclosure to the notice of Her Majesty's Government, and to ask for their good offices in favour of its object. The second is a copy of a letter to the Prince of Roumania, expressing the hope that an understanding may be come to by which the differences at present existing may be peacefully and equitably terminated.

This latter is signed by the Patriarch of Constantinople, the Patriarch of Alexandria, the Patriarch of Jerusalem, and by the representative of the Archbishop of Sinai.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure 1 in No. 84.

The Patriarchs of Constantinople and Jerusalem and the Representative of the Archbishop of Sinai to Sir A. H. Layard.

Le $\frac{5}{17}$ September, 1879.

Excellence,

LES Représentants des Grandes Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin ont bien voulu se saisir de la question des couvents dédiés, placée dès son origine sous la garantie des Grandes Puissances, et formuler les décisions insérées dans le Protocole No. 15.

Réunis pour se concerter sur les mesures à suivre dans cette question les Soussignés se sont décidés avant tout à adresser à Son Altesse Royale le Prince Charles I de Roumanie une lettre pour solliciter une entente amicale afin d'arriver à une solution pacifique et équitable du différend existant entre les Saints Lieux et la Principauté de Roumélie.

Désirant de porter à la connaissance des Grandes Puissances cette démarche amicale, les Soussignés ont l'honneur d'adresser à votre Excellence ci-joint copie de la lettre adressée à Son Altesse Royale, et la prier de la soumettre au Gouvernement qu'elle représente, et en même temps de vouloir bien prêter ses bons offices en faveur du but que les Soussignés se sont proposé.

Dans la conviction que leur demande sera favorablement accueillie par votre Excellence, les Soussignés profitent de l'occasion, &c.

(Signed) The Patriarch of Constantinople.
The Patriarch of Jerusalem.
The Representative of the Archbishop of Sinai.

Inclosure 2 in No. 84.

Greek Patriarchs to the Prince of Roumania.

Altesse Royale,

LA Providence Divine, qui a de son bras tout-puissant soutenu la pieuse nation Roumaine au milieu de la récente épreuve, vient de l'élever toute glorieuse au rang qu'elle méritait d'occuper, et de lui assurer un brillant avenir dans la voie du progrès et de la civilisation.

Pénétrée de joie devant cette manifestation de l'assistance Divine, l'Eglise d'Orient félicite vivement le peuple Roumain, elle félicite surtout votre Altesse Royale qui a servi d'instrument à l'accomplissement de la volonté de Dieu, et ne cesse de prier le Tout-Puissant d'éclairer son chemin par les rayons de lumière céleste, et de guider ses pas dans l'illustre carrière qu'il lui a préparée.

Tout en exprimant ses vœux et ses félicitations sincères en cette occasion, l'Eglise d'Orient négligerait un de ses devoirs les plus sacrés si elle manquait d'appeler la bienveillante attention de votre Altesse Royale sur l'état anormal des relations de la nation Roumaine avec les Saints Lieux d'Orient à l'égard des monastères dédiés, et de demander à sa justice une solution opportune de cette question.

Sous le poids d'une injustice inattendue, les quatre Siéges Patriarcaux et les autres communautés religieuses voient à leur profond chagrin depuis seize longues années leurs établissements de bienfaisance dépérir, leurs écoles se fermer l'une après l'autre, leurs efforts incessants pour le progrès de leurs ouailles se briser contre des difficultés insurmontables; ils se voient surtout empêchés dans l'accomplissement de leurs devoirs les plus sacrés; les testaments des bienheureux fondateurs des monastères dédiés ne sont plus en vigueur, leur volonté a cessé d'être accomplie; plusieurs lieux consacrés au culte divin sont fermés.

C'est la réparation de ces malheurs que nous demandons à la justice de votre Altesse Royale; nous la supplions au nom de l'Eglise entière de chasser tout cet essaim de maux; que votre Altesse Royale ne perde point le souvenir des dons de Dieu ni celui de sa justice, mais s'en donnant la manifestation comme modèle, qu'elle s'empresse d'offrir à l'Eglise une juste consolation. Que votre Altesse Royale ne souffre point que, par un contraste de mauvais augure avec les récents bienfaits de Dieu, la nation Roumaine prenne possession de son illustre position, tout en oubliant l'Eglise de Dieu dans l'affliction qui lui a été causée par une si grande injustice; arrêtez, Altesse, le cours de ses maux, et ramenez la paix si agréable à Dieu, entre la Sainte Eglise et le peuple qui vous a été confié.

L'Eglise d'Orient, dont les vœux tendent depuis longtemps à la solution pacifique et amicale du déplorable différend qui existe entre les Saint Lieux et votre Gouvernement Princier, s'adresse pour la troisième fois à votre Altesse Royale pour implorer la réparation de ces injustices, et déclare qu'elle est toute disposée à accepter un mode convenable de délibération commune avec son Gouvernement, afin d'arriver à une solution équitable. Elle considère comme les meilleures garanties pour la réussite de ses vœux la profonde piété de votre Altesse Royale et les promesses qu'elle a bien voulu adresser jadis à Sa Sainteté Monseigneur Grégoire, Patriarche Œcuménique; aussi elle n'hésite point d'exprimer le consolant espoir que sous l'auguste initiative de votre Altesse Royale son Gouvernement s'empressera de prêter une oreille attentive aux prières d'une mère affligée, et d'inaugurer le nouvel avenir de la nation Roumaine en Orient par une réparation complète des injustices commises jadis à son égard.

Interprètes de cet espoir intime et du vœu cordial de l'Eglise, les Soussignés, commis par la grâce de Dieu à la garde des droits et des intérêts des Saints Lieux, et portant la responsabilité de l'exécution des vœux des mémorables testateurs ou donateurs, se présentent aujourd'hui devant votre Altesse Royale, et encouragés par le souvenir de ses hautes promesses, la supplient de vouloir bien mettre fin à la position douloureuse de l'Eglise en attirant ainsi sur elle, sur son auguste famille, et sur tout le peuple Roumain, les bénédictions de l'Eglise entière, et les dons salutaires de son époux céleste le Grand Dieu notre Seigneur Jésus-Christ.

(Signé) JOACHIM, *Patriarche de Constantinople.*
SOPHRONIUS, *Pape et Patriarche d'Alexandrie.*
HIEROTHIOS, *Patriarche de Jérusalem, et Représentant du Patriarche d'Antioche.*
PAISSIOS SINAITES, *Représentant de l'Archevêque de Sinaï.*

Constantinople, le 27 Juillet, 1879.

No. 85.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October 7.*)

(No. 851.)
Therapia, September 29, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 1182 of the 18th instant, I have the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Captain Swaine, stating that there is no foundation for the report of a concentration of Turkish troops between San Stefano and Hermanlik.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure in No. 85.

Captain Swaine to Mr. Malet.

Therapia, September 28, 1879.

Sir,

IN reply to the Marquis of Salisbury's despatch No. 1182, inclosing a translation from an article which has appeared in the "Pesther Lloyd" newspaper with regard to an alleged concentration of Turkish troops between San Stefano and Hermanby, and the "secret orders" issued to them, I have the honour to inform you that no such concentration has taken place.

The army in the Vilayet of Adrianople, exclusive of Gallipoli and the Bulair Lines, counts about forty-five battalions. These are distributed in Adrianople, Kirk-Kilissé, Demetoka, Lule-Bergas, Tschorlu, Rodosto, &c.; nor are these battalions up to their normal strength, each counting only from 500 to 600 bayonets at most.

On the contrary, instead of a concentration of troops, seven battalions at Demetoka are under orders to proceed to Janina in Epirus.

I have not been able to ascertain the truth of the "secret orders" supposed to have been issued to the battalion Commanders by Ghazi Osman Pasha.

But as the concentration of troops found its origin in the fertile imagination of the correspondent of the "Pesther Lloyd," it may safely be accepted that the "secret orders" sprung from the same source.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LEOPOLD V. SWAINE,
Military Attaché.

No. 86.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October 7.*)

(No. 855.)
Therapia, September 30, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of despatches upon matters of interest in their respective districts, which I have received from Her Majesty's Consuls at Bourgas, Kaiserieh, and Ada-Bazar.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure 1 in No. 86.

Consul Brophy to Sir A. H. Layard.

Bourgas, September 20, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that the band of armed Turks who attacked a party of militia on the 9th instant are still stationed near the frontier, and have made no offensive movement since that date.

The militia sent against them has declared that, their duty not comprising the capture of Turkish brigands in the Balkans, they refused to march against Turks armed with Martini rifles, but that they are willing to wait at the foot of the hills until the Turks think fit to attack them. This dilemma will, I believe, be referred to the decision of General Strecker, who is expected here shortly.

On the other hand, the Turkish peasants of the Aidos Balkan have volunteered, if arms are furnished them, to kill or capture the whole band. As the band in question requisitions sheep, bread, and horse fodder from the Turkish villages, the latter are naturally anxious to get rid of such disagreeable neighbours.

The Prefect of Bourgas objecting on legal and humanitarian grounds to the employment with his sanction of any Bashi-Bazouks, whether Mussulman or Christian, has not yet accepted this offer, but as his Excellency the Governor-General is shortly to visit Bourgas, it is hoped that he will take the necessary measures for clearing the Aidos Balkan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES A. BROPHY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 86.

Consul Brophy to Sir A. H. Layard.

Bourgas, September 20, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that with a view to the approaching elections a list of "Electoral Colleges" or groups of voters has been published for the four cantons comprising the Prefecture of Bourgas.

According to this arrangement, which emanates from Philippopoli, villages of one circumscription are ordered to vote with those of another, *e.g.*, a village belonging to the Canton of Bourgas is told off to Achialo, Aidos or Karnabad, and *vice versâ*.

The principal object of this redistribution appears to be the annihilation of the large Mussulman majority existing in the Canton of Aidos; juridically, this canton contains a population of 15,000 Turks and 5,000 Bulgarians, but in order to give the electoral majority to the dominant race, twenty-four Christian villages belonging to Bourgas, Yamboli, and Karnabad are ordered to vote with the Aidos group, whilst as many or more villages of the Aidos district (all Mussulman) are assigned to Achialo, where they will serve as a sort of counterpoise to the Greek absolute majority.

That no considerations of local convenience have actuated the framers of this list is evident, by the fact that almost everyone of the transferred villages is geographically nearer to its juridical centre than to the town where it is called upon to vote.

Whatever may have been the reasons for this redistribution of voters, the effect is to nullify the only Mussulman majority which exists in the Prefecture of Bourgas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES A. BROPHY.

No. 87.

Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October 7.*)

(No. 84. Confidential.)
Constantinople, September 27, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 73 of the 18th September, inclosing copy of a Report from General Sir Lintorn Simmons, the recommendations of which are to guide me in my future proceedings.

Sir Lintorn Simmons, after consideration of the documents submitted to him, is of opinion that, "wherever the water-parting may cut the parallel of latitude through the village," that point of intersection should be accepted as the point west of Karaourgan. This, as your Lordship is aware, is, and ever has been, the essence of my contention, and it is the view which I have endeavoured, in vain, to induce my Russian colleague to accept as the logical interpretation of Treaty, Protocols, the Project of Frontier of the Russo-Turkish Commission, &c. If the Russian Government will accept Sir Lintorn Simmons' view of the case a great step forward will have been made in the negotiations.

But the Russian Commissioner here will not accept the point of intersection of the water-parting with the parallel. His ground is this: I take my stand on an agreement come to between Russia and Turkey with regard to that portion of the Asiatic frontier which those two Powers have alone a right to determine. That frontier has been determined, as witness the signed maps, as far as the parallel of Karaourgan, where the partici-

pation of Great Britain commences. We have determined a point on the parallel. It is not for you to inquire by what process we have arrived at that point in descending from the northward. All above the parallel of Karaourgan is nothing to you. All that you have a right to do is to examine if the point is west of, and near to, Karaourgan.

The above is the argument of the new Russian Commissioner.

The position, on the other hand, of the British Government, and of myself, as the executor of its instructions, is put forward, in concise terms, by the Earl of Dufferin in his despatch No. 388 of the 13th August, 1879, addressed to your Lordship.

With regard to Sir Lintorn Simmons' observation that in any agreement to be made between the two Governments no condition be allowed such as that suggested in my No. 73, I would beg to remind your Lordship that the proposition with regard to the lands round Karaourgan did not emanate from me in the first instance, but was consequent on some proposals made by Lord Dufferin, as transmitted to me in your Lordship's telegram No. 12.

Finding the spirit of Lord Dufferin's telegram breathed concessions, I made a suggestion which, if agreed to, would give us better terms than General Miliutine's proposal, as the latter left us in the dark as to how "the door was to be closed." But I most thoroughly concur in Sir Lintorn Simmons' view that it is desirable to exclude all mention of Ziwin from the negotiations. During all my relations with my Russian colleagues I have always studiously avoided any discussion with regard to Ziwin, after once stating in Commission that I considered all observations with regard to any connection of our frontier with that place as being "absolument hors de propos." (See Protocol No. 3.)

In respect to the recommendations of Sir Lintorn Simmons that the Commission should proceed to the ground, in order to verify the map, before proceeding any further with the work of delimitation, I have the honour to submit to your Lordship the following observations:—

The Asiatic Boundary Commission is working under different conditions to the European Boundary Commissions, inasmuch as there exist beforehand complete, and apparently accurate, maps of Asia Minor, recently surveyed by the Russian Topographical Staff. It is, therefore, in a position to lay down a provisional frontier on these maps, in accordance with the terms of the Treaty in a place (like Constantinople) where the Commission is free from the trammels which local claims and objections would place upon it. (We have already guarded ourselves, by the necessary reservations, against any inaccuracies in those maps.) That we are likely to be met with such local objections is evidenced by the fact that the Russians sought to introduce the "intérêts économiques" of Karaourgan as a factor in determining the point west of Karaourgan. I remember similar instances occurring last year in the Dobrudscha. All these inconveniences we avoid by determining a tentative frontier here in accordance with the strict terms of the Treaty.

Moreover the Asiatic Commission differs from the European Commissions in the fact that the latter had the power of settling disputed points by the vote of the majority, whereas in our case all matters in dispute have to be referred to the Governments. It appears, therefore, manifestly desirable to determine the general trace here, within reach of his Excellency Her Majesty's Ambassador and of the telegraph, and thus, by disposing of the main points at issue before we start, to leave only those minor points to be determined on the ground, which points would not materially retard the progress of the work of delimitation.

Thinking that your Lordship might have occasion to refer to the Project of Frontier in your communications with the Russian Government, I have the honour to inclose herewith a copy of the original. A translation was sent in my No. 23.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. C. H. CLARKE.

Inclosure in No. 87.

Project of Frontier.

CONFORMÉMENT au Traité de Berlin et en partie au Traité de San Stéfano ainsi qu'à la carte jointe à l'Article XIX de ce dernier, la nouvelle frontière entre la Russie et la Turquie en commençant sur la côte de la Mer Noire par le Cap Kopanouch, situé entre les villages de Makriali et d'Ahou-Islah, continue jusqu'au sommet de Mamath (ou Zigaristé) par la ligne de partage des eaux séparant les affluents de Makriali-Sou et d'Ilchkalé de ceux de Hoppa; puis elle se prolonge jusqu'au sommet de Daghit-Dagh, en suivant la même crête qui sépare les affluents de Mourgoul-Sou de ceux de Hoppa; plus loin, elle longe la ligne de partage des eaux entre les affluents de Mourgoul-Sou et de

Ibatila-Sou d'un côté, et d'Arkhavi et de Cobikis Itchkalé (affluent de Parkhal) de l'autre; et encore plus loin la frontière continue par la chaîne des montagnes jusqu'au point au sud d'Artwin et au nord-ouest de Khorda, point qui se trouve dans le triangle formé pas les villages: Tchatil-Tsvara, Tchikhéléth et Mélo (ou Milo), et qui est marqué sur la carte.

Du point indiqué au sud d'Artwin et au nord-ouest de Khorda, la frontière suivra la rivière de Sari-Sou jusqu'à sa jonction avec la rivière Milo-Sou, traverse cette rivière et suit la crête, comme il est indiqué sur la carte, jusqu'au confluent de la rivière Nikzovani avec Tchoroukh. De ce point la frontière suit le thalweg de Tchoroukh jusqu'à la jonction de la rivière Hirssou avec Tchoroukh, quitte cette dernière et longe, comme la carte l'indique, la crête située à l'est du village d'Erkinez, en allant jusqu'au sommet qui se trouve à l'est du village d'Avéress et au nord-est du village d'Ischikhana; puis se prolonge par la crête jusqu'à la rivière Olti-Tchay, traverse cette rivière, remonte sur la chaîne des montagnes situées entre les deux rivières indiquées sur la carte, et continue, en suivant les crêtes les plus remarquables qui se dirigent vers le sud, jusqu'au point au sud de Nariman, fixé sur la carte.

Du point au sud de Nariman, la frontière gagne la chaîne des montagnes aboutit, comme la carte l'indique, à la rivière Toumbouli-Déressi, et suit cette rivière jusqu'au point marqué sur la carte, et éloigné de Tébrenek d'une distance d'une verste et demie à peu près. De là elle remonte sur les hauteurs en prenant, conformément au tracé de la carte, la direction du sud-est, et descend par les hauteurs au confluent de Toumbouli-Déressi avec Bardouz-Sou.

Après, la frontière suit ce dernier cours d'eau jusqu'à un point situé à une distance de 2 verstes à peu près de Bardouz, gagne les montagnes situées devant Bardouz, comme la carte l'indique, et par la ligne de partage des eaux et des collines qui se dirigent vers le sud, aboutit au point (indiqué sur la carte) à l'ouest de Karaourgan, en laissant Bardouz et Yénikeuy à la Russie.

Les Délégués Russes et Ottomans sont tenus à se conformer à la carte ci-jointe lors des travaux de délimitation.

La carte qui indique le tracé de la frontière à partir de la Mer Noire jusqu'au point au sud de Nariman est faite d'après l'échelle de 3 verstes Russes dans un pouce Anglais, ou bien $\frac{1}{126000}$ de la grandeur naturelle.

L'autre partie de la frontière est indiquée sur la carte faite d'après l'échelle de 2 verstes Russes dans un pouce Anglais, ou $\frac{1}{84000}$ de la grandeur naturelle.

Il est entendu que les villages limitrophes doivent passer à la Russie et vice-versa avec les terrains dont les habitants jouissent actuellement, et par conséquent les frontières tracées sur la carte pourraient subir des changements des deux côtes, si toutefois ces changements ne seraient pas contraires aux frontières naturelles, tel que: rivières, collines et crêtes. Il est entendu en même temps que les Délégués Russes et Ottomans ne tiendront pas compte des terrains qui se trouveraient isolés et éloignés de la frontière.

Nous exprimons ici notre opinion personnelle et croyons que le projet du tracé de la frontière tel qu'il est décrit plus haut, et que nous avons désigné sur la carte ci-jointe, se trouve conforme au Traité de Berlin, sauf l'approbation de nos Gouvernements respectifs.

Constantinople, le $\frac{5}{17}$ *Avril*, 1879.

No. 88.

Major Gordon to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 52.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, September 29*, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that, at a meeting of the Commission of which I am a member, held on the 27th instant, it was found that near to Mustafa Pasha there still existed a small gap on the survey of the frontier of Eastern Roumelia.

It being upwards of six weeks since the sheet containing this portion was promised by our Russian colleague, and as at the above meeting he declared that he could not tell whether the sheet was at St. Petersburgh or Rustchuk, but that it would be forwarded shortly, without, however, specifying any date, I therefore proposed to send Captain de Wolski, R.E., to complete the portion. My proposition was accepted with unanimity. Captain de Wolski started to-day, and may be expected to return to Constantinople, with the work completed, by the 5th or 6th October.

The unfinished portions of the Rhodope Mountains, referred to in my despatch No. 50 of the 22nd instant, are of considerable less extent than I had at first thought. Two Russian topographers have returned to the ground accompanied by Seifoulla Boy, an

intelligent and energetic Turkish officer, who will render every assistance. One of the above gaps is important, as it contains a small portion of the country north of the watershed, where it is joined by the frontier after leaving the River Arda.

This party may be expected to return to Constantinople with the work completed by about the 12th October.

The remainder of the work of the Commission is being pushed on as rapidly as possible, and I am of opinion that everything will be concluded by the 25th October at the latest.

I would have accompanied Captain de Wolski, but my colleagues are of opinion that my presence at Constantinople is necessary.

His Excellency Reouf Pasha, Governor at Adrianople, has been requested to give the necessary escort, &c., to Captain de Wolski.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. GORDON.

No. 89.

Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 32. Political.)
My Lord, *Bosna-Serai, September 29, 1879.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 30, Political, of the 24th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the Turkish garrison at Plevlje has been strengthened within the last few days by the arrival of two battalions of infantry from Sjenica.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 90.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 401. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Rome, October 3, 1879.*

IN the course of a visit which Count Maffei paid me the day before yesterday he spoke of the Greek frontier question, beginning by a reference to a paragraph in the "République Française," according to which your Lordship is reported to have promised M. Waddington, in your recent interview with him, that Her Majesty's Government would employ their diplomatic influence at Constantinople to induce the Turks to give up Janina. Count Maffei said he should rejoice if such were the case, as thus a complete understanding would be brought about between the three Western Powers on this question. France, he considered, had advanced so far (it had been the one question which she had for some time taken up with activity and determination, that upon its solution would depend her first great diplomatic failure or success in recent times) that it would now be impossible for her to recede.

As regards Italy, Count Maffei's first observations were intended to convey the meaning that the Italian Government were sensible of the consideration which had been shown by your Lordship in not having made any remarks upon the different policy pursued by the present Cabinet in the Greek question from that of their predecessors. He went on to explain how impossible it was for M. Cairoli to take any other course than a strict adherence to the line of the Berlin Congress, he having been at the head of the Italian Cabinet, as he is now, at the time when the proposal was originally brought forward by the Plenipotentiaries of Italy and France conjointly. The Italian Government, however, he stated, attached the greatest importance to acting with England in this matter, as in all others in the East, so that the old tradition of the union of the three Western Powers in Eastern affairs might be again revived.

I asked Count Maffei whether France and Italy were prepared to employ force against Turkey, and, if not, whether he thought anything short of force would induce the Turkish Government to make the required cession. To the first question he replied in the negative; to the second he answered that he believed the moral influence of England, France, and Italy united would be sufficient, especially if in urging the demand a formal engagement was entered into by these Powers towards the Porte that this should

be the very last concession of the kind which should be urged upon it. Into this engagement the Italian Government, he unhesitatingly declared, would be perfectly ready to enter in conjunction with England and France. In fact, it was one which the Italian Government considered was only due to the Turkish Government if they agreed to the terms demanded of them.

Count Maffei then spoke at length of the interest and importance it was to Italy to uphold and strengthen the Turkish Empire, and in doing so expressed the belief that a peaceful settlement of this question with Greece, and it could only, in the opinion of the Italian Government, be peacefully settled by giving this satisfaction to Greece, would be removing one of the chief elements of her weakness. As, however, Count Maffei's language to me on this subject was very much the same as that which he held to Mr. Macdonell, as reported in his despatch No. 380, Very Confidential, of the 17th ultimo, it is unnecessary that I should make a further report of it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 91.

Mr. Adams to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 999. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Paris, October 4, 1879.*

M. WADDINGTON begged me this afternoon to state to your Lordship that he could not help feeling surprised at not having yet received an answer from Her Majesty's Government as to recommending the Porte to accept the declaration which the Greek Commissioners at Constantinople had been instructed to submit in substitution for that proposed by the Porte, and which stated that the two parties had agreed to accept the indications of Protocol No. 13 as a point of departure and a basis of discussion.

M. Waddington said that he looked upon this as a mere formality, and besides that he understood that your Lordship had some ten days ago agreed to recommend to the Porte to accept the Declaration as proposed by the Greek Commissioners.

His Excellency further said that all the other Powers had agreed to make the recommendation, and that the question was standing still at Constantinople owing to this delay on the part of Her Majesty's Government; that the delay was placing him in an awkward position; and that it had even given rise to ill-natured comments from Berlin, which, in fact, threw doubt on the reality of his good understanding with England.

His Excellency spoke with much earnestness on the subject.

I merely observed that I was without instructions, but that I would telegraph to your Lordship the substance of his remarks.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No 92.

Mr. Adams to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 1003. Most Confidential.)
My Lord, *Paris, October 6, 1879.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 999, Confidential, of the 4th instant, I have the honour to report that I have communicated to M. Waddington the substance of your Lordship's telegram No. 158 of 11·40 yesterday evening.

I had not seen the text of Safvet Pasha's amendment, but M. Waddington told me that he understood that the only difference between it and that proposed by the Greek Commissioners was that it used the words "to be freely discussed" instead of the words a "base of discussion."

His Excellency repeated that he still considered this a matter of form, and that if the words of Safvet Pasha's amendment had been originally proposed, he did not suppose that he should have had any difficulty in accepting them.

But what he must again say, his Excellency continued, was that he regretted extremely that after all the other Powers had agreed to the formula of the Greek Commissioners, Her Majesty's Government alone had stood aloof, and that he was the more surprised at

their doing so, because he certainly understood your Lordship to have agreed with him at your interview at Dieppe on the 19th ultimo, that the principal thing was to get the Greek question settled and out of the way as soon as possible.

His Excellency added that he also understood your Lordship to say on the same occasion, that Her Majesty's Government would even go so far as to advise the Porte to give up Janina, if that were necessary, in order to have the question settled without further delay, and that M. Fournier had understood Sir Henry Layard's language to him in a similar sense.

Now, however, his Excellency said, it was too late; an amendment had been proposed, the Greek Commissioners had taken it *ad referendum*, and another fortnight or so would be wasted. There might, his Excellency added, be a rising in Eastern Roumelia, and then the Greeks might follow the example and invade Thessaly and Epirus, and further complications might ensue.

His Excellency spoke in an earnest manner, and was evidently disturbed and rather alarmed at what might happen from this delay.

On my side I represented that your Lordship did not consider this as a matter of form, but that you were rather inclined to think, as stated in your telegram, that the Greek Commissioner's proposal was designed by them for the purpose of making the Turks commit themselves further than they wished, and that, if this were so, an exercise of pressure on the part of Her Majesty's Government would amount to forcing the Greek proposals upon the Turks to a certain extent, a policy which, as his Excellency knew, Her Majesty's Government do not consider it possible for them to adopt under the circumstances.

I also ventured to observe that what I understood your Lordship to have told his Excellency at Dieppe was, not that Her Majesty's Government would advise the Porte to cede Janina, but that, whilst regretting the view taken by France and Germany, they would leave the matter entirely to the Sultan's decision.

I had learnt this from your Lordship's telegram to Mr. Corbett of the 30th ultimo, and I therefore trust that I did not do wrong in stating as much to M. Waddington.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 93.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October 7.*)

(No. 684.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 6, 1879, 4 P.M.*

AT a sitting of the Plenipotentiaries on the Greek question yesterday the Greek Plenipotentiaries presented the Declaration contained in my No. 663. The Turkish Plenipotentiaries proceeded to make a declaration with regard to it, but the Greek Plenipotentiaries said that it admitted neither addition nor explanation. The Ottoman Plenipotentiaries observed that as it was a question of a joint Declaration, it was necessary that the parties should be agreed as to the meaning of the expressions used in it. They then made the following declaration:—

"We request their Excellencies the Greek Plenipotentiaries again to take act that we are ready, on account of high authority which attaches to wish expressed by Powers, to take as the first bases of our negotiations the indications of Protocol 13, that is to say, to study together general line of the Calamas and the Peneus, to be adopted or modified according as, after discussion, it shall seem to us destined to establish between the two countries relations of stability and reciprocal security."

The Greek Plenipotentiaries said that they would take act of the above declaration, and would refer it to their Government.

The above is the version of what took place telegraphed by the Porte to its representatives abroad. The telegram concludes by asserting that the Porte feels convinced that the Powers will give their approbation to the Ottoman Declaration.

No. 94.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October 7.*)

(No. 85.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, October 7, 1879, 3·20 P.M.*

ICHTIMAN has not yet been given up. The Governor of the Principality informed the Governor-General some time ago that orders had been given to Samakow for surrender

of district, but the authorities at the latter place deny having received such orders. As the elections are impending, it is desirable that the province should be properly constituted.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 95.

Mr. R. Thomson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October 7, 12·30 P.M.*)

(No. 50.)
(Telegraphic.) *Tehran, October 7, 1879, 12·45 P.M.*

FOLLOWING telegram received from Mr. Churchill dated the 6th:—

"Defeat of the Russian army confirmed by messenger who has just returned from Chat. Turcomans captured two guns; loss on both sides very great; Russians admit theirs to be 1,200 men. Bulk of the army has retired to Karee-Kala and the cavalry to Chat; large reinforcements are expected on both sides."

The Meshed Agent reports that the Russians lost 2,000 men in killed and wounded, and that two guns and 2,000 rifles, besides a large quantity of ammunition and stores, were captured by the Turcomans.

(Communicated to the Viceroy.)

No. 96.

Consul-General Crowe to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October 7, 3 P.M.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Düsseldorff, October 7, 1879.*

EMPEROR WILHELM accepts Treaty of Vienna, which is an offensive and defensive Treaty against all comers.

No. 97.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 1235.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 7, 1879.*

THE Turkish Ambassador handed to me to-day a copy of a telegram which he had received from his Government with respect to the pending Greek negotiations, copy of which I inclose.

I told Musurus Pasha that the formula proposed by the Turkish Government appeared to me, generally speaking, to be free from objection, and to furnish a suitable starting-point for the deliberations of the Commission now assembled at Constantinople.

At the same time I repeated the representations I had on more than one occasion made to his Excellency, of the expediency of employing a conciliatory tone in the management of these negotiations, and the extreme importance to Turkey of bringing about an early settlement of the question which alone hindered the adoption of the financial reforms that were indispensable to the safety of the Empire.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 98.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. Paget.[*]

(No. 489.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 7, 1879.*

I TRANSMIT to you herewith, for your information, a copy of a note which I have received from the French Ambassador at this Court, calling attention to the delay which has occurred in the negotiations on the Greek Frontier question, and urging Her Majesty's Government to support the formula proposed by the Greek Commissioners as a basis for further negotiations.†

[*] Also to Mr. Adams.

† Admiral Pothuau, September 24, 1879.

I also inclose a copy of the reply which I have made to this communication;* and I have to inform you that a similar answer was given to the Italian Ambassador, who called to inquire what views were entertained by Her Majesty's Government on this subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 99.

Consul-General Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 8.)

(No. 115. Political.)
Cettinjé, September 27, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that I came here two days ago on a visit of courtesy towards Prince Nicholas after His Highness' absence at the Austrian military manœuvres at Bruck.

His Highness informed me that he could not find words to convey to me an adequate idea of the kindness and attentions shown him by the Emperor and all the members of the Imperial Family.

Prince Nicholas was especially flattered at the Emperor's request for the Montenegrin decoration as a remembrance of their meeting; and His Highness is evidently not disposed to give currency to the impression that he was invited to Austria just at the time the advance to the Lim was to be effected as an additional guarantee for Montenegro to remain passive.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 100.

Mr. Adams to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 8.)

(No. 1004. Confidential.)
Paris, October 6, 1879.

My Lord,

M. CALLIMAKI-CATARGI called upon me this afternoon and stated that he was instructed by M. Boerescu to say that the Roumanian Government were very anxious to be represented in the technical Commission which was to meet at Silistria on the 26th instant with reference to the Arab-Tabia question, and he expressed an earnest hope that Her Majesty's Government would look favourably upon this desire on the part of Roumania.

I reminded M. Callimaki-Catargi that, when I had the honour of seeing M. Boerescu in August, his Excellency had stated confidentially to me (as reported in my despatch No. 904, Confidential, of the 25th of that month) that he had avoided all discussion of the Arab-Tabia question at St. Petersburg, and had declared that Roumania would shelter herself behind the Powers and would bow to their decision.

M. Callimaki-Catargi answered that certainly, in a political sense, this was the policy of the Roumanian Government, but that the present was a frontier question which interested his country deeply, and which required persons living in the country and conversant with the localities to explain and assist the International Commission. He therefore begged me to urge upon Her Majesty's Government their acceptance of this proposition, to which his Government attached great value.

He added that he would write a note to me upon the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 101.

Mr. Adams to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 8.)

(No. 1005.)
Paris, October 7, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my immediately preceding despatch of yesterday's date, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a note which reached me late yesterday

* To Admiral Pothuau, September 29, 1879.

No. 101 A.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 8.)

(No. 1. Political.)
Prisrend, September 19, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report my arrival this day at Prisrend. The journey from Scutari was performed on horseback in five days.

Previous to my departure from Scutari six horses were handed over to me by Captain Sale, R.E., of the Montenegrin Boundary Commission, with the request that, on reaching my destination, four might be sold as advantageously as possible, crediting the Foreign Office with the amount obtained by their sale, and keeping the remaining two until his return next year, when the Boundary Commission will resume its duties.

I was accompanied all the way by my two cavasses and two mounted zaptiehs, and besides, when available, by zaptiehs on foot as guides; but these could only be obtained at intervals, as, in consequence of arrears of pay, most of the zaptiehs have abandoned their posts and returned to their homes.

Guard-houses are to be met with every two hours, but whenever I asked whether a local escort could be obtained I invariably received the following answer: "No piastres, no zaptiehs."

The result is, that travellers have to run the risk of being robbed, and, if they show any resistance, murdered.

I found nearly all the hans, or inns, deserted for want of protection. Only those were found open whose proprietors, it is said, were associates of brigands.

Several landowners and respectable farmers, at whose houses I had occasion to stop, entreated me to intercede on their behalf; I therefore respectfully venture to suggest that a representation on the subject may be made at Constantinople.

A zaptieh's pay amounts only to 78 piastres a-month, besides an allowance of bread. The cost, therefore, of an efficient staff, would be but a trifle. The so-called brigands, I must observe, are composed of the inhabitants lining the road between Scutari and Prisrend, who, whenever an occasion offers itself, not entailing much risk, make up a gang of thirty to forty and way-lay merchants and others.

A case occurred only five days since.

On my making inquiries whether we ran any risk, I was informed that these people were well aware of my coming, but, not being professional brigands, they scarcely ventured to attack a foreign official, especially an English one.

Nearly the whole of the journey has to be performed at a foot's pace, as no road can be said to exist, only a foot-path, very often running by the side of a precipice several hundred feet deep. Occasionally, going round a gorge, we found several inches of the path washed away, so that our horses had to step over these chasms. At other times, we had to pick our way along dried water-courses.

With the exception of two pack-horses jumping overboard on crossing the River Bojana in a ferry, I met with no mishap during my journey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 101 B.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 8.)

(No. 2. Political. Confidential.)
Prisrend, September 20, 1879.

My Lord,

ON my arrival here yesterday I at once called on my Austrian colleague.

M. Jelinek arrived about the time that the Turco-Russian war commenced, and has been here alone with his wife and five children ever since.

He describes the country to be in a terrible state of anarchy. Murders, he says, are of every-day occurrence in the streets of Prisrend, and it is unsafe for a Christian to show himself out of doors.

When it was first made known to him that an English Consul had been named to Prisrend he and his whole family wept for joy, he said, and added that he had been a close prisoner for nearly two years.

There is no doubt that this part of the Turkish Empire has been very much neglected ever since the war with Russia; that, beyond the levying of a few taxes and the recruiting of soldiers, little or no notice has been taken, and the country allowed to shift for itself.

No wonder then that the Albanian League, seeing the utter impotence of the Porte to maintain order, has now taken into its own hands the management of affairs, and that with the concurrence of the Government.

I must confess that I was not favourably impressed with my Austrian colleague. M. Jelinek appears by nature to be of a very nervous temperament, so that the constant danger which, according to his own account, he has been subject to the last two years, especially during the Austrian occupation, has unnerved him to that extent that he is now quite unable to look upon things in their proper light.

His advice to me was to keep perfectly passive, and not to interfere with the authorities. Altogether his conversation was so conflicting and incoherent that it became quite confusing. Unfortunately, the Turks are aware of his timid nature, and act upon it.

His presence here I consider is doing more harm than good, while his removal to another post, and another person placed in his stead, would be beneficial to himself, his colleagues, and more especially to the Christian community at Prisrend.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 101 C.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 8.)

(No. 3. Political.)
Prisrend, September 20, 1879.

My Lord,

AFTER my visit to the Austrian colleague, as reported in my despatch No. 2 of to-day's date, I called on Colonel Osman Bey, now in charge of this district until the appointment of a Pasha.

Osman Bey speaks French, and appears to be an intelligent man. It was he who commanded the garrison when Podgoritza was given over to the Montenegrins.

I was informed by him that a Commission, composed of thirty persons, representing all the neighbouring districts, and forming part of the Albanian League, had arrived two days since.

The object of this meeting is not known by the public, nor is it likely to transpire at present, as every one connected with it is bound to secrecy on pain of death.

Osman Bey, when I interrogated him on the subject, stated that they had not as yet called upon him, though they were hourly expected, and that, as the object of the meeting was for the general good, and decidedly pacific, he was pleased at its arrival.

The League of late has taken an active part in the administration of the province, and done some good by hanging two murderers; its arrival here, therefore, is looked upon very favourably.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 101 D.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 8.)

(No. 4. Political.)
Prisrend, September 22, 1879.

My Lord,

COLONEL OSMAN BEY, the Acting Pasha, who has just returned my visit, informs me that forty representatives of the Albanian League have assembled here from all parts; and that four more are expected shortly.

The object of their meeting is to deliberate on the affairs of the country, and to decide what attitude it will be expedient for them to take up; by which your Lordship will observe how completely the fate of the Christian population and the maintenance of public security now depends, not on the authorities appointed by the Porte—for they have no power whatever—but on a set of lawless fanatics determined to act according to their own judgment.

In a week or ten days their deliberations will be terminated, and we shall then know the result, whether for good or for evil.

Though my arrival has caused the greatest satisfaction to the Christian community, numbering at Prisrend about 5,000, the same effect is not discernible among the Mussulman population, numbering about 25,000, who look upon me as a spy.

This morning I received a message, delivered verbally by a Christian, that if I were again seen walking about the Turkish quarter of the town, as I did yesterday, it might go badly with me; and when I insisted on knowing who was the sender of the message, I was told by the Christian that were he to comply with my demand, the Government could not save him and his family from assassination. I have every reason to believe that the message emanated from a member of the League.

On my complaining to the Acting Pasha, he advised me to remain very quiet until the departure of the League, when he hoped tranquillity would be re-established: thereby shewing plainly how little authority he exercises and how critical is our position.

My Austrian colleague has not yet ventured out of his house to return my visit, though the distance is only a few hundred yards.

I am willing to take the advice I have received from several quarters, as well as from Osman Bey, and to abstain from showing myself as much as possible until the departure of the persons representing the League; but should the present state of affairs still continue, and I compelled to shut myself up like my Austrian colleague, my presence here can be but of little use to the Christian population at Prisrend, and of none whatever to that living at a distance, as an appeal to the authorities would be of no avail, even if they were willing to act, and consequently I could not afford them any protection.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 101 E.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 8.)

(No. 5. Political.)
Prisrend, September 23, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE been informed that the meeting of the Albanian League at Prisrend has been organized by the Government.

Circumstances lead me to suppose that such is really the case, as I know positively that zaptiehs and horses were sent to meet them, and that houses at Prisrend were ordered by the authorities to be prepared for them.

The object of this gathering is best known by the Porte, and is kept dark for the present.

I believe the members themselves are not aware of the questions to be mooted. They have constant interviews with the Acting Governor, though their general meetings have not yet commenced.

Osman Bey stated that in a few days all would be over; and he hoped that I should be able to report favourably of him when I wrote to Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

---

evening from M. Callimaki-Catargi, and which expresses the wish that Her Majesty's Government will consent to the participation of Roumania in the technical Commission to meet shortly at Silistria with reference to the Arab-Tabia question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

Inclosure in No. 101.

M. Callimaki-Catargi to Mr. Adams.

M. le Ministre, *Paris, le 6 Octobre*, 1879.

PAR une dépêche en date du 4 Octobre, M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Roumanie m'informe qu'une Commission Technique Internationale doit se réunir à Silistrie le 26 Octobre prochain, pour étudier le point de départ, sur le Danube, de la frontière entre la Bulgarie et la Dobroudja. Il me charge à cette occasion de vous prier d'intervenir auprès du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine, afin qu'il consente à l'admission de délégués Roumains qui pourraient faciliter le travail de la Commission par leur connaissance spéciale des localités et défendre en même temps nos intérêts.

Vous comprendrez aisément, M. le Ministre, ce qu'il y a de légitime dans cette demande, et vous voudrez bien sans doute en être l'interprète bienveillant.

Permettez-moi d'ajouter que je vous serai très reconnaissant de me mettre en mesure, le plus tôt que faire se pourra, de communiquer à Bucarest la réponse du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) N. CALLIMAKI-CATARGI.

No. 102.

Musurus Pasha to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 8.)

Ambassade Impériale Ottomane, Londres, le 7 Octobre, 1879.

My Lord,

J'AI l'honneur de remettre ci-joint à votre Excellence copie de la dépêche télégraphique Ministérielle dont je lui ai donné lecture cette après-midi.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) MUSURUS.

Inclosure in No. 102.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 5 Octobre*, 1879.

A LA fin de précédentes séances des Plénipotentiaires Turco-Grecs, et dans une pensée de conciliation et pour faciliter la solution de l'incident, j'avais soumis aux Plénipotentiaires Hellènes le projet de déclaration suivant :

"Les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans constatent avec plaisir que leurs collègues de Grèce sont disposés à s'approcher des idées émises par eux et à entrer en matière en considérant les indications du Protocole 13 comme susceptibles de discussion et de modification."

Les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes avaient déclaré qu'ils soumettraient cette déclaration à leur Gouvernement, dont ils feraient connaître la réponse à la séance suivante.

Au début de la séance d'aujourd'hui, les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes, après trois semaines de silence, ont présenté et lu la déclaration suivante qu'ils substituent à mon projet :

"Le but des négociations actuelles étant de faciliter aux deux Etats une entente désirée par le Congrès à Berlin sur une rectification de frontières destinée à établir entre la Turquie et la Grèce des rapports de réciproque et stable sécurité, les deux parties sont d'accord pour accepter comme point de départ et comme bases de discussion les indications du Protocole 13."

Les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans ont répondu dans les termes suivants :

"Il est bien entendu que, suivant cette déclaration, nous allons commencer nos négociations, en prenant pour base première les indications géographiques du Protocole 13,

qui seront mises en discussion, et il est clair que ce qui est mis en discussion est à modifier, puisque ce qui ne peut être modifié est hors de discussion."

Les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes ont déclaré qu'ils s'en tenaient aux termes de la déclaration proposée par eux, et qui avait reçu l'approbation de presque tous les Cabinets de l'Europe, et qu'ils n'admettaient ni addition ni explication.

Les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans ont fait remarquer que, puisqu'il s'agissait d'une déclaration commune, il était indispensable de constater si les deux parties attachaient le même sens aux expressions employées dans la déclaration commune.

Les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes ayant déclaré avoir dit leur dernier mot, j'ai donné lecture de la déclaration suivante:

"Nous prions leurs Excellences les Plénipotentiaires Heliènes de vouloir bien de nouveau prendre acte que nous sommes prêts, en raison de la haute autorité qui s'attache au vœu exprimé par les Puissances, à prendre pour base première de nos négociations les indications du Protocole 13, c'est-à-dire à étudier ensemble la ligne générale des vallées du Calamas et du Pénéus pour l'adopter ou la modifier suivant qu'après discussion elle nous paraîtra destinée ou non à établir entre les deux pays des rapports de stable et réciproque sécurité."

Les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes ont dit qu'ils prenaient acte de cette déclaration, et qu'ils allaient en référer à leur Gouvernement.

Je vous prie de communiquer ce compte-rendu sommaire au Gouvernement près duquel vous êtes accrédité, en lui faisant remarquer combien il est regrettable que la déclaration proposée par la Grèce ait été soumise aux Cabinets Européens, et ait reçu l'approbation de la plupart d'entre eux, comme l'affirment les Plénipotentiaires Heliènes, sans que la Sublime Porte en ait eu connaissance, et ait été appelée à présenter ses propres observations, et à soutenir et expliquer mon propre projet de déclaration; ce qui eût pu amener une entente sur une rédaction commune et éviter ainsi de nouveaux retards.

Vous vous appliquerez à faire ressortir:

1. Que, depuis le commencement de ce débat nous avons toujours et uniquement pris en considération le Protocole 13, dont nous avons accepté les termes dans leur esprit et dans leur lettre;

2. Que notre dernière déclaration d'aujourd'hui est la confirmation éclatante de cette même et constante pensée, et de notre désir sincère de clore un incident qui seul arrête nos négociations, et qui a été si malheureusement soulevé par la déclaration déposée à la première séance par les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes.

Nous avons trop de confiance dans la sagesse et dans la justice des Cabinets Européens pour n'être pas convaincus qu'ils donneront leur pleine et entière approbation à cette déclaration si rationnelle, si conciliante et si loyale, et qu'ils useront de toute leur influence sur le Cabinet d'Athènes pour la lui faire accepter.

Vous voudrez bien donner immédiatement lecture de la présente dépêche à son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères et lui en laisser copie.

No. 103.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 8, 2·30 P.M.)

(No. 149. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October 7, 1879, 6 P.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 138, I learn secretly from a person who often has opportunities of knowing the truth, that General Kaufmann has written from Livadia to warn his Chief of the Chancery to prepare to accompany him at once to Turkestan, as a plan is being matured for sending Abdur Akhman Khan to raise disturbances in Northern Afghanistan, and unite, with assistance of Russia, in one independent Khanate under him the present small semi-independent Afghan States north of Hindoo Kush.

My informant understands that this is the plan proposed by General Kaufmann, but does not know for certain that it has yet been actually sanctioned by the Emperor. The General, however, appears to consider that it has been adopted, for he tells his Chief of the Chancery that he is to prepare for long absence from St. Petersburgh, as he is to reside in the new Khanate as Russian Commissary.

No. 104.

Major Trotter to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 8.)

(Telegraphic.) *Erzeroum, October 7, 1879, 4·50 P.M.*

THERE is no appearance of the enemy in the quarter indicated, and there is no indication of an intention to take military possession.

Governor-General of Caucasus shortly expected at Olti.

No. 105.

Mr. Egerton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 8.)

(No. 158.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 7, 1879, 6·20 P.M.*

AUSTRIAN news from Prisrend is not so recent, and is not so alarming as that sent by St. John.

Telegraphic instructions will be sent to Austrian Ambassador at once to act in concert with Malet as regards pressure on the Porte in this matter.

No. 106.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 8.)

(No. 85. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, October 7, 1879, 7·30 P.M.*

MY German colleague, just returned from Berlin, tells me, in the strictest confidence, that his Government has ascertained that, immediately after Prince Bismarck's visit to Vienna, an overture was made by the Russian Government in Paris, but declined by the French Government.

It was suspected something similar would be attempted here also, but German Ambassador says that he is certain subject has not been mentioned.

He earnestly begged me to keep this information secret.

No. 107.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 250.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 8, 1879, 8 A.M.*

ASCERTAIN if Captain Sale can go to Silistria to act on the Technical Commission which is to be appointed to report to the Governments on the question of the Arab-Tabia boundary.

The date proposed for meeting of Commission is October 27.

No. 108.

Mr. Egerton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 8, 6·15 P.M.)

(No. 159.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 8, 1879, 5·47 P.M.*

EMPEROR, in speech to Parliament to-day, states that relations with all foreign Powers continue friendly; that most important stipulations of Berlin Treaty have been carried out; that entry into Sandjak of Novi-Bazar on strength of this Treaty has been carried out in friendly understanding with Porte, and that his Government will now give its full attention to furthering and developing Austrian economical relations with the East, a task which has been facilitated by late events with respect to commercial matters; His Majesty says that in negotiations for the renewal of Treaties of Commerce care will be taken to avert injury which might result to Austrian trade and commerce from change in Tariffs of foreign countries; that friendly discussions which have lately taken place afford a prospect of a favourable settlement of Austrian trade and commercial relations with the German Empire.

No. 109.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. White.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 8, 1879, 6·45 P.M.

I HAVE spoken to the German Chargé d'Affaires with respect to the possibility of Germany resolving to recognize Roumania as a consequence of the legislative measures now under consideration, and I have begged him to make such representation to his Government as shall insure our knowing of the intended step a sufficiently long time before it is taken.

No. 110.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Adams.

(No. 162.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 8, 1879, 6·45 P.M.

YOUR language reported in your despatch No. 1003 is approved. M. Waddington quite misunderstood me if he thought I engaged to press the cession of Janina on the Turks.

I laboured to explain to him that we should leave the matter entirely to the Turks, and not press them on the subject; and that our reason for this course was that, if the Mussulman feeling on the matter was forced, an Albanian rising would be the consequence. I quite agree with him as to the importance of bringing the matter to an early conclusion, and have always spoken in that sense; but this result may be attained by pressing the Greeks as well as the Turks.

No. 111.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul Kirby Green.

(No. 49.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 8, 1879.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 114 of the 15th ultimo, and I have to convey to you my approval of your proceedings with the view of inducing the Turkish authorities to accept the submission offered on the part of the Mirdite Chief, Capitan Cola and his son.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 112.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 1238.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 8, 1879.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 833 of the 22nd ultimo relative to the state of Macedonia, I have to request you to call the attention of the Sublime Porte to the suggestions contained in Mr. Blunt's despatch No. 91 of the 5th ultimo, viz., that Rifaat Pasha should be succeeded by a more able and energetic administrator; that an efficient force should be organized in lieu of the brigands and notorious malefactors who at present constitute the police; that the state of siege which has existed for the last two years should be discontinued; and that an inquiry should be made into the public accounts of the province.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 113.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Adams.

(No. 1207.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 8, 1879.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 1083 of the 6th instant, recording what had passed at an interview which you had had with M. Waddington on the subject of the Turco-Greek frontier negotiations, and I approve the language which you held to M. Waddington on that occasion.

In regard to the policy of Her Majesty's Government in this matter, I must observe that M. Waddington entirely misunderstood me if he inferred, from anything that passed between us on this subject, that Her Majesty's Government engaged to press the cession of Janina on the Turks.

I laboured to explain to his Excellency that Her Majesty's Government would leave this matter entirely to the discretion of the Turks, and would not interfere with the decision to which they might come on the subject; and that their reason for this course was that, if the Mussulman feeling in the matter was forced, among other evil consequences, an Albanian rising would probably ensue.

Her Majesty's Government, nevertheless, entirely agree with M. Waddington as to the importance of bringing this question of the frontier to an early conclusion, and have always spoken in that sense; but it appears to them that this result may be attained by the exercise of pressure upon the Greeks as well as upon the Turks.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 114.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. White.

(No. 108.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 8, 1879.

I HAVE taken an opportunity of discussing with the German Chargé d'Affaires the possibility of his Government resolving to recognize the independence of Roumania, in consequence of the legislative measures which are now under the consideration of Prince Charles' Government; and I have requested Baron von der Brincken to represent to the German Government that, should they come to such a decision, Her Majesty's Government would be glad to be informed of the intended step a sufficiently long time before it is taken.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 115.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 9.)

(No. 67. Political.)
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, September* 27, 1879.

IN my despatch No. 62 of the 31st ultimo I had the honour to acquaint your Lordship at some length with the difference which had arisen between his Excellency Photiades Pasha and the Minister of Justice at Constantinople regarding the appointment of Mr. Scaltsouni as President of the Court of Appeal. The approval of that gentleman's appointment having been withheld up to this hour, his Excellency the Vali has, on his own authority, installed Mr. Scaltsouni in his new post, the duties of which he has already entered upon.

Photiades Pasha having exhausted every argument to overcome the Minister's objections to the new appointment, which arose merely from the circumstance of the Pasha's nominee being of Greek nationality, his Excellency, seeing that the organization of the Law Courts could not be successfully attempted so long as the highest judicial post in the island remained unoccupied, felt that delay was no longer possible, and took the vigorous step above reported. Satisfaction with the new appointment is general.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 116.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 9.)

(No. 60. Political.)

My Lord, *Salonica, September* 28, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of three despatches from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Larissa and Volo respecting the state of affairs in Thessaly.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 116.

Vice-Consul Longworth to Consul-General Blunt.

Sir, *Larissa, September* 24, 1879.

THE requisition, for military purposes, of carts and beasts of burden, has been until quite lately a subject of grievance and angry comment among the people of these parts.

The seizure of transports is here found to be by the police a lucrative occupation, and consequently they generally set about it in a violent, irregular, and indiscriminate manner, taking possession of double or treble the number required, and for a bribe releasing the surplus. The dislike people have to this work is owing to the long detention by the authorities of the animals at the expense of their owners, as well as to the unsatisfactory rate of payment, which is much below the one offered by the merchants, and usually only of a promissory character.

The municipality, with the sanction of the Mutessarif, has decided a short time ago to make no distinction in this matter between foreign and Ottoman subjects, and a Circular to this effect was addressed to all the Consulates in these parts.

In my official reply to it I protested against any forcible means being adopted on British subjects in carrying on the new regulation, and at the same time privately suggested to his Excellency the Mutessarif Pasha to pay promptly the average fare, and thus induce the people to come forward of their own accord to offer their services. The proposition has since been taken into consideration and resolved upon by the civil authorities, and in consequence I venture to say that there are no longer any difficulties to be anticipated in this matter.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY Z. LONGWORTH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 116.

Vice-Consul Longworth to Consul-General Blunt.

Sir, *Larissa, September* 24, 1879.

BY the decision of the Government at Constantinople, Fazli Bey, the present Kaïmakam of Volo, is to exchange posts with Mofit Bey, of Tricalla, owing to the former having seriously complicated himself in the embezzlement of the Government oil obtained from the last olive crops of the Volo district.

It is true that it cannot be actually maintained he had a share in this theft, yet no one can exculpate him from the blame of unusual neglect in selecting and controlling the tithe gatherers with more care, tact, judgment, and circumspection.

His conduct in this respect has consequently drawn upon him the mistrust and resentment of the Turkish Government; for the Treasury, instead of realizing from the olive oil of the Volo district some 25,000*l.* or 30,000*l.*, the value of the quantity collected scarcely amounted above the sum of 12,000 Turkish liras.

Fazli Bey's transfer from Volo is causing considerable discontent among the people of the place, where he has succeeded, during his stay, to win their regard and esteem by his impartiality and sense of justice. Several letters from my colleagues, as well as from some of the principal inhabitants of Volo, have reached me, asking whether I could use my influence in retaining Fazli Bey amongst them; but as some palpable proofs of his heedlessness in the revenue concerns have been brought to my notice by the central authorities here, I think it best to abstain from all interference in the matter.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY Z. LONGWORTH.

Inclosure 3 in No. 116.

Vice-Consul Longworth to Consul-General Blunt.

Sir, *Larissa, September* 24, 1879.

I BEG to report that an ill-feeling has existed for some time past between the civil and military functionaries at Larissa, which was engendered, at first, by the jealousy of the one and the overbearing manners of the other. The animosity, formerly dormant, suddenly burst out, during August, from all control, owing to the civilians spreading a false and scandalous report that the military, in concert with the purveyors, were swindling the Government of some 30,000*l.* The rumour reached the ears of Shefket Pasha, who made inquiries as to the source of the calumny, and discovered that it emanated from the Mutessarif and the members of his Court.

Shefket Pasha's own resentment, and that of his colleagues, induced him to bring about a large meeting, composed of civil and military officials, and, before the assembled party, to accuse the former of having spread the defamatory reports respecting the latter, and also to demand explanations as to the grounds on which the suspicions were founded. The Mutessarif and his azas emphatically denied their having had any share in their circulation, and, upon witnesses being produced to show that such was not the case, angry words arose between the injured and the injurers, which resulted in the Mutessarif Pasha leaving abruptly, after denouncing the right of Chefket Pasha to judge and cross-question him and his officials.

I was not present myself in this scene, but both the civil and military Pashas called individually on me in the course of next day, and related the details of the affair from their respective views. During the conversation I had with each of them, I expressed a regret, in a quiet, inoffensive manner, that party feeling and dislike should have had such an influence over them, and that a spirit of antagonism should have manifested itself so openly at a time when the interest of the country stood in need of a hearty coalition between the civil and military authorities of the province.

I have now to add, in conclusion, that my attempts during the Ramazan to induce at least an outward show of reconciliation proved entirely futile; but that on the day of the Bairam festivity, and ever since, the relations between the two parties have greatly improved, and are likely to improve further, if cause is not given for humiliation on the one side and indignation on the other.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 117.

Form of Declaration approved of by the Ambassadors of Austro-Hungary, France, Germany, Italy, and Russia at Constantinople, and recommended by them to the Porte, and made by the Greek Plenipotentiaries on the Fifth Sitting of the Commission, on October 5, 1879.—(*Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by M. Gennadius, October* 9.)

"LE but des négociations actuelles étant de faciliter à la Grèce et à la Turquie une entente désirée par l'Europe, réunie à Berlin, sur une rectification de frontières, destinée à établir entre les deux pays des rapports de stabilité et de sécurité réciproque, les deux parties sont d'accord pour accepter comme point de départ et comme base de discussion le Protocole No. 13."

Qualifying Addition proposed by the Turkish Plenipotentiaries.

"Il est bien entendu qu'après cette Déclaration nous allons commencer nos négociations en prenant pour bases premières, comme nous l'avons déclaré précédemment, les indications géographiques du Protocole No. 13, qui seront mises en discussion."

No. 118.

Mr. Adams to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October 9.*)

(No. 148.)
(Telegraphic.)
Paris, October 8, 1879, 7·45 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 161, M. Waddington has received similar account of sitting of Plenipotentiaries on the Greek question.

He has telegraphed to Athens and Constantinople that he will accept either declaration, and he earnestly hopes that Her Majesty's Government will do what they can towards the speedy settlement of this preliminary question.

No. 119.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October 9.*)

(No. 685.)
(Telegraphic.)
Therapia, October 8, 1879, noon.

FOLLOWING received from Consul-General Michell to-day, and repeated to Consul-General Palgrave:—

[See No. 94.]

No. 120.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October 9.*)

(No. 686.)
(Telegraphic.)
Therapia, October 8, 1879, 6 P.M.

YOUR Lordship's No. 250.

Captain Sale states that there is nothing to prevent him from going to Silistria to act on the Commission.

No. 121.

Mr. Egerton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October 9.*)

(No. 160.)
(Telegraphic.)
Vienna, October 9, 1879.

TO-DAY'S "Gazette" publishes retirement [?] of Count Andrassy and appointment of Baron Haymerle as Minister for Foreign Affairs.

No. 122.

Mr. R. Thomson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October 9, 12·15 P.M.*)

(No. 51.)
(Telegraphic.)
Tehran, October 9, 1879, 1·30 P.M.

FROM the Herat Correspondent's letters, dated the 16th September, nothing appears to have been then known in Herat of the Cabul outbreak.

When the Cabul regiments mutinied in Herat, Eyub Khan, it is stated, was in total ignorance of what was going on, and he endeavoured to quell the revolt, but only arrived on the spot when General Fakir Ahmed had been killed and his house had been pillaged and razed to the ground.

(Communicated to India.)

No. 123.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Corbett.

(No. 85 A.)
Foreign Office, October 9, 1879.

Sir,

THE Greek Chargé d'Affaires brought to me to-day the form of Declaration which his Government had proposed at the Conference now sitting at Constantinople, and which, he said, had been previously submitted to the assent of five out of the six Powers. He

also brought the alternative suggestion made by the Turkish Commissioners. Copies of both these documents are inclosed herewith for your information.

M. Gennadius spoke with considerable warmth of the delay caused by this proposal on the part of the Turkish Government, describing it as calculated to set aside altogether the 13th Protocol of the Congress of Berlin, and he urged that the Turks should be compelled to assent to the form proposed by the Greek Government, which had been previously supported by so many of the Powers.

I replied to him that this last consideration was inapplicable to Her Majesty's Government, who had not given their approval to the Greek proposal; but I further pointed out to M. Gennadius that there was no justification for describing the Turkish amendment as at variance with the 13th Protocol, remarking that it only claimed that the line fixed at Berlin, while made the main point of departure, should be subject to free discussion, and that this claim appeared to me to be justified by what had taken place at Berlin during the sitting at which the 13th Protocol was adopted. I reminded M. Gennadius that it was distinctly stated in this Protocol that the mediation of the Powers was to be offered for the purpose of facilitating negotiations, and I pointed out to him that, if the line suggested were to be adopted without discussion, and without the possibility of modification, it was obvious that no negotiations would be required. The Congress, in providing for negotiations, had assumed that their suggestion would be subject to discussion, and I therefore proceeded to urge upon him the danger of protracting the work of the Commission by exhibiting an inflexible rigour upon formal or secondary points. We had secured, I observed, no small advance by inducing the Turks to accept the Berlin line as a point of departure, a thing they had never fully done before, and it appeared to me, I said, that the complexion which these negotiations had taken, and the attitude of more than one of the Powers, was producing a change in the policy of Turkey, which would be injurious to Europe and might be disastrous to Greece. Turkey might come to terms with Russia upon the understanding that if Russia would defend her against the attacks of Greece she would, on her part, decide in favour of the Slav as against the Greek element of the population wherever the two were in competition or collision.

Such a result, I pointed out to M. Gennadius, by relieving both Russia and Turkey of considerable embarrassment, would be gained entirely at the expense of the Western Powers and of Greece; but while to the Western Powers it would involve merely a political check, it would shut Greece out from all hope of extension in the future.

I strongly recommended M. Gennadius on these grounds to advise his Government to pursue the present negotiations in a more conciliatory spirit, in the hope of bringing them to an early conclusion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 124.

Mr. Egerton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October 10.*)

(No. 634.)
Vienna, October 7, 1879.

My Lord,

I TOLD Baron Calice to-day of the position of Her Majesty's Consul at Prisrend, as described by Mr. Green's telegrams of the 4th and 5th.

His Excellency's information was not so recent, nor was his last news so serious, as that sent by Mr. St. John. But, he said, he very frequently received alarming news from Prisrend.

The withdrawal of the Consuls, he thought, would produce a very bad local effect, but he agreed with me that it would produce a still worse effect if they were killed, and therefore promised to telegraph at once to Count Zichy to put himself into communication with Mr. Malet, and, should the latter be instructed to press the Porte to take immediate steps for the maintenance of order and the protection of the Consulates, to act in unison with him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 125.

Mr. Adams to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 10.)

(No. 1010.) *Paris, October* 8, 1879.

My Lord,

M. WADDINGTON, as I learnt from him this afternoon, has received a similar account to that telegraphed to your Lordship on the 6th instant by Mr. Mulet, of the sitting of the Turkish and Greek Plenipotentiaries on the preceding day with reference to the Greek Frontier question.

His Excellency said that he had telegraphed to the French Representatives at Athens and Constantinople that he was ready to accept either the Turkish or the Greek declaration. If anything, he added, he thought the Turkish declaration a little more explicit.

His Excellency begged me to express to your Lordship his earnest hope that Her Majesty's Government would do whatever lay in their power to hasten the settlement of this preliminary question at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 126.

Mr. Adams to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 10.)

(No. 1014.) *Paris, October* 9, 1879.

My Lord,

M. WADDINGTON informed me yesterday afternoon that he had appointed M. Lalanne, a member of the Institute, and Director of the Ponts et Chaussées, to be the French Commissioner in the Technical Commission which was to meet shortly at Silistria with reference to the Arab-Tabia question.

His Excellency added that M. Lalanne was leaving Paris at once, but would be some little time on the road.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 127.

Major-General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury—(*Received October* 10.)

(No. 89.) *Athenæum Club, Pall Mall, October* 10, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to submit for your perusal a printed copy of the Memoranda which, as stated in a despatch to you at the time, I forwarded in August last, to the War Office, the subject being the new frontier of Turkey and proposals for defending it.

It is, of course, not easy to offer suggestions on such a subject to a foreign Power; but possibly your Lordship might see fit, on a suitable opportunity occurring, to invite the attention of the Ottoman Government to the matter of the third Memorandum.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 127.

Memorandum on the Frontier, and especially the Passes, dividing Eastern Roumelia from Bulgaria.

THE frontier line between Eastern Roumelia and Bulgaria, as fixed in accordance with the Treaty of Berlin, begins on the Black Sea, at the embouchure of a stream called the Tchivté Déré, which flows north of, and parallel to, the Emine Balkan, by the villages of Hodzakioij and Aivadjik. It ascends the thalweg of this stream to a point south of Sudzuluk (called also Goulitza), passes about 2½ kilom. south-east of Belibe, descends to

the Dermen Déré, and thence gains the valley of the Deli Kamcik, which stream it crosses at 2¼ kilom. above and west of Cengei; from that point it at once ascends to the crest of the principal chain of the Balkans, which it thenceforward follows to Kosica.

The Tchivté Déré being an inconsiderable stream, the country for the most part thickly-wooded, the roads generally mere hill-paths, it would seem to follow that the frontier here offers no such features as are to be looked for in a good line of defence. Nevertheless, it is not improbable that an investigation of the ground would show that both strategical and tactical advantages are offered for defence at a certain point—namely, the plateau where the two roads meet which lead from Pravadi on Aidos, the eastern one by Kaprikioi, the western by Cengei. This plateau, about a mile wide, is flanked by deep ravines. By holding it, and also the summit of the Emine Balkan at the point where the coast road from Varna to Burgas crosses it, it is quite possible that an army posted about Aidos might stop an invader, or drive him to advance by the intervening hill-paths. However this may be, the Balkan range is split at this extremity into many ranges, some of the most considerable of which, the Emine Balkan and the Aidos Balkan, lie south of the frontier, and being, therefore, altogether in the possession of Turkey, would almost certainly afford a line adapted to the direct defence of Roumelia.

From the height west of Cengei to the Dobral Pass, the line of watershed, which is in that space identical with the frontier, lies over summits thickly wooded, and forming parts of one dense forest. There are numerous paths leading south from Varna, Pravadi, and Shumla, but all difficult, some impracticable for vehicles; and the only roads suitable for all arms in this space of sixty miles between the sea and the Dobral Pass are the coast road and the two from Pravadi to Aidos. An invader who should choose this line would, therefore, advance very slowly, by few roads, far apart, or pass in many isolated columns with precarious lines of supply, and would find his further movements barred by the Emine and Aidos Balkans and the fortifications of Burgas. As it is, a primary condition for the defence of Roumelia against a Russian invasion, that Burgas, well fortified and garrisoned, should be the place of debarkation of an ally of Turkey, it might be expected that the invader, coming this way, would find himself in presence of a strong and well-guarded line of defence.

Pursuing the line of the frontier westward, it is crossed by three main roads at the passes of Dobral, Verbitza, and Kotel; and these are specially important, not only because the roads are so good, but because they connect important towns—Shumla and Rasgrad with Karnabad, Jamboli, and Sliven—and because they lie so close together that the columns using them may easily be combined for a common end.

At the point where the Dobral Pass crosses the watershed, the summits are (as they continue to be for many miles on both sides of it) covered with dense forests, the only parts clear of wood being the precipitous crags, which, in this district, crown the tallest peaks. There is, however, a flat space of valley close to the frontier on the Roumelian side, in which the road lies, and which is 700 or 800 yards wide, where the Turks had a camp and battery during the war of 1877. Except in this narrow space, nothing but wood-fighting is possible in the country about the pass at that end of it. But at its southern extremity the ground is more open, and the pass could be well defended by occupying a position there, after it crosses the Deli Kamcik, where a commanding range of hills lies across its course, and looks down on the road as it traverses the fordable river and the valley. This range, inferior in height to the main range, is separated from it by the valley here a mile wide; the opposing northern summits, besides being nearly inaccessible, are, therefore, as they recede from the base, almost beyond cannon-range of the proposed position. In occupying it, it would be necessary to guard a smaller path, which, entering the forest east of the pass, crosses the river and ascends the southern range, about three miles from the point where the main road crosses the position, and from whence it passes over the range and descends to the village of Dobral.

The road through the Dobral Pass is rough and narrow, but practicable for vehicles and guns. The Deli Kamcik is in summer easily fordable. The northern extremity of the pass lies in a deep depression of the hills which it follows to the river; it is, therefore, nowhere steep at this end, and becomes so only in crossing the southern range. It is not high, and nowhere deserves the name of a mountain pass.

About fifteen miles west of the Dobral the Verbitza Pass crosses the frontier. Passing for four miles along a valley, after leaving Verbitza, the road begins to ascend to the watershed by steep zig-zags along the side of a mountain, having on the eastern side a precipitous descent to the valley, and on the western the upward slopes to the summit 300 or 400 feet above. It crosses the watershed at a depression about that distance below the summit. The whole mountain is thickly clothed with wood, and it would be almost impossible to advance anywhere except by the road. Consequently, although, if the

ground were open the position here would be very commanding, the defence must, in existing circumstances, be restricted to the road itself, and a narrow space on each side of it.

For two miles from this point the course of the road, and of the watershed which it follows, lies nearly south. Along, and parallel to, this part of its course, a bare hill on the Bulgarian side commands it throughout. The watershed then turns eastward, and the road, quitting it, continues its southerly course. The heights on which the watershed line runs, being here bare, would form a good position were they not commanded by the hill already mentioned, which stands a mile off in the angle formed by the watershed. From this point the road descends almost continually to the valley of the Deli Kamcik. It is better throughout than that of the Dobral Pass, and nowhere very steep except at the zig-zag portion on the side of Verbitza.

The Kotel Pass, distant 8 or 9 miles from the last, is of a character altogether different from the preceding two. The ground is open, and the line of watershed strongly marked. The road, as it ascends from the Bulgarian side towards the watershed, is commanded throughout from the slopes of the summit forming the watershed, which, from the point where the road enters them, are included in the Roumelian frontier, because these slopes, gentle as far as the road, thence descend much more steeply, and the crest (to which the frontier is by the Treaty restricted) was therefore held to extend to the edge of these lower slopes. The road (and frontier line) lie along their edge for ½ a mile, when they enter the watershed between low hills, the summits of which are given entirely to Roumelia. Westward of this point the three principal summits on which lies the watershed are also entirely given to Roumelia, as they command the path from Elena, which, after traversing their lower slopes, enters the main pass at the watershed close to the low hills before mentioned; and they also command a hill path which lies along them. Another path from Bulgaria enters the watershed east of the main pass, and about ½ a mile from it, after passing along the slope of a commanding summit, and this summit also is entirely given to Roumelia. Thus, Turkey has here the means of making a very strong defence. A mile from Kotel the road, here broad and good, descends in steep zig-zags to that town.

Between the above described group of passes and the next group, about 17 miles from the Pass of Kotel, the frontier is crossed by another road, known as the Pass of Demir Kapou, by which Sliven is connected with Tirnova. The road from Bulgaria enters the frontier in a wooded country by ascending a deep ravine with precipitous sides, when, gaining the plateau of the watershed, it runs for some hundred yards parallel to the frontier line, which follows the norther edge of the plateau for that distance to a height the military crest of which it includes for Roumelia. Two or three miles behind the frontier on the Roumelian side the road divides, both branches leading on Sliven, and there is a third leading on Benkos. It is necessary, therefore, for the defence of the pass to occupy it at the frontier. The road is much narrower and more broken than that of the Verbitza, and continues to bear that character for most part of its course; the eastern branch especially, which enters Sliven on the north of the town, can scarcely be considered practicable for artillery, even in the best weather. The westernmost presents fewer impracticable parts, but is, nevertheless, very bad, and, lying low, and along the course of streams, must be useless except in dry weather.

The importance of this difficult pass is in the circumstance that it debouches on Sliven, whence there are excellent roads to Karnabad, Jamboli, and Eski-Zagra, and it would therefore probably be included in the same offensive plan with some, or all, of the group already described; consequently, the defensive army must hold it.

Another point for consideration in the defence of this part of the frontier arises from the fact that at Benkos the valley of the Tundja narrows to less than a mile, and a work there might entirely isolate the lower from the upper course of the river, thus completing the defence of the eastern passes. The extent of the front of an army, advancing by the passes from Dobral to Demir Kapou inclusive, would be about 50 miles.

West of the Demir Kapou Pass comes another important group, that of the Tvarditza, the Hain Boghaz (Hainkioij) and the Shipka Passes, giving access to the valley of the Upper Tundja, and thence over the Karadza Dag to Jeni-Zagra and Eski-Zagra. It is to be observed, respecting the Demir Kapou, that it has a branch leading into the Upper Tundja Valley; and also that an invader, advancing by it to Sliven and Jeni-Zagra, would turn both that upper valley and the range of the Karadza Dag. Thus the conclusions are reached that—1st. A fortification at Benkos would not be equally effective in completing the system of defence of this western group, as we have seen it to be in the case of the eastern group; and 2ndly. That the Demir Kapou Pass must be included in the system of defence of either group which the invader may select for his intended advance.

The Tvarditza Pass is about 14 miles west of the Demir Kapou. It connects Tirnova with the road along the Tundja Valley, between Sliven and Kazanlik, and, more directly, Tirnova with Jeni-Zagra. It is thickly wooded at the watershed, like the Verbitza; the road, winding round the slopes of the hills, could not be used for an advance till the heights had been carried. The road lies mainly along crests, with deep valleys on each side, and finally descends a mountain side to the village of Tvarditza. It is fairly good and well kept throughout, having been entirely re-made by the Russians during their occupation of the country. The mountains on each side of the crests over which the road lies are mostly covered with extensive forests.

Ten miles west of the Tvarditza is the Hainkioij Pass. The frontier is quite bare at the point where it enters, and to the summits on each side, which are very commanding, the road ascending steeply from Bulgaria. The crest line of a hill on the right, a mile and a half beyond the watershed, from which the position on each side of the pass might have been commanded, is included in the frontier, and this hill flanks the road and the slopes ascending from the valley on the opposite side of it. The position is therefore strong for defence. Behind it, the road passes very steeply down for about 2 miles, but on reaching the narrow valley in which the stream lies follows its course throughout, the road descending all the way by very gentle gradients. It is, therefore, the most level of the passes. This narrow valley is inclosed by lofty hills, always wooded and mostly impracticable. The road is barely practicable for artillery, especially in a few short portions which lie along the actual bed of the river; but it might, with less difficulty than in other cases, be made very good. This pass is very low; it connects Tirnova with the road between Sliven and Kazanlik, and also with the road between Jeni-Zagra and Eski-Zagra.

The summit of the Shipka is only two and a half hours distant from the village of Shipka, at the foot of the mountain on the Roumelian side. The road is 20 feet wide, and better than that of any other of the passes, the only difficulty being its steepness of descent on the southern slope. The position includes on its left the military crest of the mountain Lissa Gora, 1½ miles west of the high road, from whence it passes by the military crests of the summits forming the watershed to the one (Mount Shipka) over which the road lies, the centre of the position advancing to Ouzum Kush, and thence returning to the terraced height on the right of the road, immediately below Sun Nicolas, from whence it passes along the watershed, and includes the military crests both of the Demir Kapou, three quarters of a mile off, and the summit next in advance of it, returning thence to the watershed. Thus the position has three salients, one in the centre, including the main road and commanding the hills below, and one on each side commanding all the slopes by which the centre salient, or the hill of San Nicolas behind it, could be attacked. It is thus exceedingly strong for defence, the valleys between the centre and two flank salients being very deep, with rugged and nearly precipitous sides.

The Shipka is the last of the passes of the Great Balkan which offers a good road in that portion of the range which forms the Roumelian frontier.

The consideration of the defence of this group of passes should include the heights above Kalofer over which the high road passes, and which form the watershed between the Tundja and the Ak Déré. Works here would close that road, and the access between the two valleys.

Westward of Kalofer two passes lead over the Balkan into the valley of the Derbend Déré, those of Trojan and Ribaritza (Rabanitza in the Austrian map), both impassable for vehicles. Access to this valley from the westward is by the Prohod Pass, and as this is entirely in the possession of Turkey, and very steep and difficult, it may be effectually closed. A road out of this valley leads direct upon Philippopoli, and the defence of this isolated part of the frontier may, therefore, properly form part of the particular dispositions for the defence of that capital.

There are thus seven passes in the Balkan frontier of Eastern Roumelia practicable for columns of all arms—namely, Dobral, Verbitza, Kotel, Demir Kapou, Tvarditza, Hainkioij, and Shipka. Besides these there are several by which infantry, or even cavalry, might pass in single file, but which are impassable for vehicles—namely, the many paths through the forest between Gengei and Dobral, the Zapanci, the Travna (or Toparisku-Puljana), the Rosalita, the Trojan, and the Rabanitza (or Ribaritza).

These lesser passes could only be used for columns auxiliary to main attacks on principal passes. The columns would be long in effecting the passage, and could have only mountain artillery. If, therefore, the defensive army were disposed on a right principle, namely, that of occupying the passes with advanced guards, and keeping the main army in the valley to reinforce, rally, and protect them, such columns ought to be easily and effectually defeated. But the defensive troops ought not to await the attack of

such a column after it has issued from the pass; they should be themselves the assailants, and with their superiority, especially of artillery, should manœuvre so as to drive it apart from the pass and along the valley. These inferior passes, then, need be only lightly held by the defender's troops, and the advanced guards there should be in proportion adapted rather for observation and retardation of the enemy than for serious defence.

Any of the seven main passes just enumerated would be serviceable as main lines of supply to an enemy who had mastered the mountain range. But as points of attack and defence they are of two kinds, those which are surrounded with wood and those which are open.

To the first class belong the Verbitza, Demir Kapou, and Tvarditza; to the second, the Kotel, Hainkioij, and Shipka. The Dobral would belong to the first if the northern extremity were held; to the second, if the position already described south of the Deli Kamcik were found preferable. The strength of the wooded passes consists rather in the difficulties which the ground presents to any endeavour of the assailants to deploy for attack, to advance by the road, or to employ artillery, than in the advantages for defence, as the defensive position must be restricted to the road and to a part of the wooded space on each side of it. Therefore, though it will be as important in the case of these passes as of others that they should not fall into the hands of the enemy, yet a large defensive force and numerous artillery would be worse than thrown away on them, as, besides being for the most part excluded from action, they would increase immensely the difficultien of a retreat. The defenders, therefore, should proportion their force in these cases to the circumstances, seeking their advantage in the obstacles they might accumulate to the enemy's advance, and in the preparation of communications along the rear of their position by which to extend so as to meet and include any possible attack.

The strongest advanced guards should, therefore, be those posted in the remaining passes, namely, the Kotel, Hainkioij, and Shipka; the force in each case should be such as completely to occupy the position, and artillery superior in calibre to what can accompany the enemy's march should be placed in the batteries.

Between the valley of the Derbend Déré and that of the Topolnitza is a mass of impassable mountains. The road along the Topolnitza passes that river frequently by fords, and is inclosed by precipices; it may, therefore, be easily made at any time what it inevitably must be at some seasons, impassable. This mountain region is prolonged westward to the Kara Bair, a range of lofty peaks, separated by deep ravines, difficult of passage from their height and abruptness, and rendered entirely inaccessible to troops by the dense woods which clothe them throughout. Only one or two paths, probably impassable for vehicles, cross this range. The hills continue, though much easier of passage, between Samakow and Banja, but from Sumnatica the impassable range of the Rhodope begins, and all passage is barred.

Thus, in this portion of the frontier, the only roads suited to important movements are (1) that from Sofia, by Ichtiman, to Tatar-Bazardjik; (2) that from Camurli, by Hadzilar, to Ichtiman; (3) the high road from Samakow, by Guzal, to Banja; (4) the inferior road from Samakow, by Radvil, to Banja.

1. The frontier line crossing the pass between Vakarel and the Ichtiman Valley leaves the last ridge on the east of the road completely to Turkey. Troops and batteries there, unassailable themselves by reason of a precipitous ravine below the ridge, would effectually bar the passage. There is, however, a hill path on the right which must be included in the plan of defence.

2. The road from Camurli passes between the summits of the Kara Bair, those south of it entirely clothed with wood, those on the north bare, but probably, from their height and steepness and the absence of roads, impracticable as positions for artillery. These summits cease near Hadzilar, but the valley, thenceforward an almost level plain, is crossed there by a lower, but still lofty, ridge about 2½ miles from the opposing summits, which rise to a much greater height. It is probable that, though it is so much lower, it would, owing to its distance from the summits, and their comparative inaccessibility, afford a good position, 1¾ miles in extent, for the defence of the Ichtiman Valley.

Finally, 5 or 6 miles from Ichtiman, towards Tatar Bazardjik, the single road passes between lofty but accessible hills, affording a position either for one corps or for a large army, which would be in little danger from a turning movement, since, as has been said, the Kara Bair range is probably almost impassable for troops.

3 and 4. South of the Kara Bair the hills on the frontier are in great part bare, rounded in form, and covered with short turf, and troops might, without difficulty, cross anywhere, while numerous paths used by shepherds would enable vehicles to traverse them. Turkey is restricted by the Treaty of Berlin from erecting fortifications within 10 kilometres of Samakow, and the rayon extends to the crest and beyond it; she cannot,

therefore, create a position on the hills. But one exists at Guzal, where a long hill, parallel to, but separate from, the main range, extends across the valley, and includes both passes from Samakow. As an enemy might make use of the lower slopes of the Rhodope against this flank, it would be necessary to complete the position by extending it across the Radvil road to the inaccessible sides of the mountains, and the tenability of the position against a large force must depend in great measure on the comparative value of those slopes for defence and for attack.

Lower down the valley a position would probably be found a short distance east of Banja; and many opportunities for the action of a rear-guard would be afforded before emerging into the plain of Philippopoli.

(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY, *Major-General.*

The Bosphorus, August 1879.

Inclosure 2 in No. 127.

Memorandum on a mode of disposing Turkish Forces for the Defence of Eastern Roumelia while awaiting an Ally.

THE chief difficulties in the defence of Roumelia are (1) the extent of frontier, very wide in proportion to the depth of territory behind it, and involving a corresponding extension of the defensive army; and (2) the position of Bulgaria, who, while almost certain to take side against Turkey when the opportunity may offer, may embarrass her either by continuing to claim all the immunities of a neutral up to the last moment, or, using her troops as the advanced guard of a Russian army, may seize on certain passes into Roumelia, while Turkey is as yet unprepared for action; and who may also, by assembling her troops towards a part of the frontier not threatened by the Russian advance, when the direction of the latter has become evident, oblige Turkey to keep her forces extended when she ought to be concentrating them on the menaced quarter. Therefore, whenever a Russian army is approaching the Danube for war with Turkey, the best course for that Power will be to declare war with Bulgaria, to enter at once on the military occupation of the Principality, to disarm the population, and to deprive the Bulgarian Government and troops, so far as possible, of the means of making war. She will thus not only disconcert the enemy's plan and deprive him of an important auxiliary, but gain the means of effecting those reconnaissances which will acquaint her with certainty of the enemy's intended operations and plan of invasion.

In any case, however, the contingency of having to provide for the defence of the whole frontier must be contemplated. It has been seen (Memo. No. 1) that an isolation of parts of the front along the foot of the Balkans may be effected by fortifying and holding its longitudinal passes at Benkos (Beikos), Kalofer, and the Prohod Pass, and these may properly form the limits, other circumstances concurring, of the armies, or distinct bodies, into which the forces distributed on so extensive a line must of necessity be divided.

The following disposition expresses merely the general idea, to be modified in practice according to circumstances:—

1. The Army of the Right, between the Black Sea and Beikos, might be thus disposed:—

Army Head-quarters.—Karnabad.

Head-quarters of Corps.—1st, Aidos; 2nd, Sungurlar; 3rd, Jamboli.

Burgas should be permanently garrisoned by troops independent of the Army Corps.

The 1st Corps, at Aidos, might have its posts along the frontier, from the Black Sea to the Deli Kamcik, near Cengei. If the Emine Balkan is held as the line of defence the principal posts will probably be on the Cengei road, at its junction with that from Koprikioi, and at the point where the coast road from Varna crosses the Balkan.

The 2nd Corps, at Sungurlar, might have its posts along the Passes of the Balkan, from Cengei to the Dobral Pass, occupying the Passes of Dobral and Verbitza, with supports at the villages of Dobrul and Jusufli, and occupying also the summit between the Deli Kamcik and the junction of the roads from Kotel and Verbitza.

The 3rd Corps; a strong force* at Kotel, occupying the pass; a strong force at Sliven, the advanced guard of which occupying the Pass of Demir Kapou; and a

* A Turkish corps is intended, theoretically, to be of 2 divisions each of 2 brigades, and to be generally composed, in respect of infantry, of 6 regiments each of 4 battalions. But the number of battalions in a corps varies, and is sometimes nearly double the above number; in the late war there were sometimes 3 divisions in a corps; and it is often difficult, therefore, in forming a scheme like the present, to assign a composite unit of force to a particular locality.

regiment (4 battalions) with artillery, at Burgudzuk, occupying the summit over which the road to Mokreni passes, and communicating by the Valley of Mokreni with the corps at Sungurlar, and also occupying the Pass of Beikos.

2. The Army of the Centre; head-quarters at Eski-Zagra.

Head-quarters of Corps.—4th, Eski-Zagra; 5th, Kazanlik.

The 4th Corps to hold the Passes of Tvarditza and Hainkioij, with supports at Jurukler, Tvarditza, and Hainkioij.

The 5th Corps to hold the Passes of Travna (Topariska Poljana) and Shipka.

No important roads cross the Balkan frontier west of Kalofer, and the main issue from the Karlovo Plain is on Philippopoli. The Army of the Left should therefore furnish the troops from Kalofer westward.

3. The Army of the Left; head-quarters at Philippopoli.

Head-quarters of Army Corps.—6th, Philippopoli; 7th, Ichtiman.

The 6th Corps to occupy Rahmanli, in direct line between Philippopoli and Kazanlik, placing, say, 2 regiments (8 battalions) with proportionate artillery, at the best point for commanding the issue of the Karlovo Plain, between Karlovo and Cukurli. This force should furnish troops to occupy the works proposed on the watershed above Kalofer, and to observe the Rosalita, Trojan, Rabanitza, and Prohod Passes, with supports at Karlovo and Rahmanli (not the place so named above, but that near Teké in the valley of the Derbend). The remainder of the corps should be posted partly at Philippopoli, with detachments observing the valleys of the Komlu Déré and the Pestj, and partly at Tatar-Bazardjik.

The 7th Corps to post a division in the Ichtiman Valley, part of which occupies the position on the Vakarel road, near the frontier, and the path on the right, and part occupies the height across the valley near Hadzilar; the remainder in reserve about Ichtiman.

Two-thirds of the remaining division in the Banja Valley, occupying the position of Guzal.

Remainder of the division in the pass south-east of Ichtiman, on the Tatar-Bazardjik road. The passes between this road and the Banja Valley should be made into good roads without delay.

It is not likely that these corps (6 and 7) would be exposed, without warning sufficient for their reinforcement by others, to any attack except that of the Bulgarian forces, which they would probably, with the aid of fortified positions, armed with powerful artillery, meet with advantage.

It is evident, from the conformation of the defended territory and its relation to the line leading on Constantinople, that the Army of the Left would be liable to be cut off by a rapid advance of the enemy on the centre or by injury to the railway. It is highly expedient, therefore, to create a good road from Philippopoli south to the coast; and, for due connection with the army of Macedonia, another road from Tatar-Bazardjik into the valleys of the Mesta and the Struma. The reconnaissances to determine the course of these roads should be effected without delay.

(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY, *Major-General.*

The Bosphorus, August 1879.

Inclosure 3 in No. 127.

Memorandum on the Points of the Frontier between Eastern Roumelia and Bulgaria which should be immediately Reconnoitred with a view to making it a Line of Defence.

TURKEY, having now a new frontier, it would, in any case, have been very expedient to make a thorough reconnaissance of it, in order to ascertain, in full detail, its military character; and an urgent reason for effecting this is added by the fact that Russia has, during her occupation of Roumelia and Bulgaria, caused a complete survey of those Principalities to be made on a scale of a kilometre to an inch, and is thereby possessed of the only map of the country which could be in the least degree relied on for military purposes.

The Turkish Government should therefore lose no time in causing a map to be made on a scale at least as large as the Russian, beginning at the frontier and working southwards.

In the meantime, a thorough reconnaissance of the new frontier should be effected with the special view of determining its defensible points, and combining them into a system of defence. The plans accompanying the reports should be on a scale of not less than 3 miles to an inch; sketches to accompany road reports, 2 miles to 1 inch.

In the space from the Black Sea to the Deli Kamcik above Cengei, it would be necessary to determine whether the line of defence should be (1) immediately in rear of the frontier stream; or (2) on the summits of the Emine Balkan; or (3) on the Aidos Balkan, and thence towards Misevria. Possibly, all these might be found to be good lines of defence.

In this space, the first important point will be to consider whether the Varna-Burgas coast road should be defended on the Gozeke Déré at Jenikioij; or, at the pass marked 411 on the Austrian map, near Sefula; or, at some point in conjunction, possibly, with a naval force, near Misevria.

The minor passes along the frontier up to the Delize Déré should be reconnoitred, and the force for observing each be determined, in case either of the first two lines of defence should be chosen. With regard to the 3rd, it is to be noted that by holding the points south of Nadirkioij, Koparan, and Indzkioij, all these (if the Austrian map is to be depended on in this particular) would be closed.

Two roads from Pravadi to Aidos, one by Cengei, one by Koprikioij, meet on a plateau just within the frontier. The point of junction should be reconnoitred with a view to selecting in front of and around it a defensive position which, if strong, might be held as part of either the first or second lines of defence.

Reports should be made on all roads and paths leading from the frontier on Aidos, Karnabad, Sungurlar, Sliven, and Jamboli, and thence on Burgas; and on positions round those six towns, except Sliven.

The part of the frontier formed by the Balkan range from above Cengei to the Pass of Demir Kapou comes next for consideration.

The minor passes up to the Dobral Pass should be reconnoitred, and as, according to the Austrian map, they all meet at a point near Rupca, the fact should be tested, and, if it is correct, a position on the summit should be reported on, such as would close all these passes.

In the case of the Dobral Pass, the report should state whether the northern end of the pass, there clothed with forest, or the heights south of the Deli Kamcik, should form the position—or both. If both, it must be noted that the force adequate to the occupation of the northern end would, if falling back, be quite insufficient for the more open and extensive position south of the Deli Kamcik. The minor pass next east of the main pass must, in either case, be included in its defence.

In the case of the Verbitza Pass the position on the west, where the road from Verbitza ascends to the watershed, should be reported on, and also that on the east of the road, two miles south of the first, should be reconnoitred with a view to the selection of one, or the occupation of both. The force should be estimated for each case, and the possibility of strengthening the position, or improving the communications by clearing wood, be considered.

The position which the Turks have the right to occupy in the Kotel Pass includes all the minor passes converging on Kotel. These are not correctly represented on the Austrian map.

The position on the Demir Kapou Pass is clearly marked, and the reconnaissance of it need only show what clearance and works may be necessary and what force should occupy it.

At the lateral Pass of Beikos the ground should be considered with a view to placing there a work or works which might close the passage from either side, but especially to a force advancing from the westward.

The Tvarditza Pass requires to be reported on only in the same way as that of Demir Kapou.

The report on the position on the Hain Boghaz (Hainkioij) Pass need only deal with the works, armament, and number of troops requisite for its defence; but there are parts of the pass in rear where the road might be easily improved, and these should be noted.

The point of junction of the Selver Déré with the Tundja should be examined with the view of commanding the road there, and so possibly rendering useless the passage of the Hain Boghaz by an enemy.

The positions on the remaining passes of the Balkans, the Travna, Shipka, Rosalita, Trojan, and Ribaritza are all well marked, and reports on them need only estimate the forces necessary to observe or occupy them, and in the case of the Shipka, the works and armament.

The watershed at Kalofer and the Prohod Pass should be examined with a view to commanding the road at those points.

A position should be chosen and reported on near the point where the Giopsu

Déré, and the road south from Carlovo, enter the hills, in which to stop an advance on Philippopoli.

The Upper Tundja down to Jamboli, and the hill range immediately behind it, from Jamboli to the road between Kazanlik and Eski-Zagra, should be reconnoitred as secondary lines of defence.

The following points should be especially noted, with the view of occupying them for defence, on the roads leading from Bulgaria by Ichtiman and Banja on Philippopoli:

(*a.*) The summit east of the road from Vakarel to Ichtiman, just within the frontier, with a view to placing thereon guns and troops to command the road. In conjunction with it must be considered the defence of the path east of the road leading from Kreva Bieka to Shamshadinova, and of the hills over which the paths from Kutratzi pass the frontier.

(*b.*) The ridge running south between Hadzilar and the road from Camurli to Ichtiman.

(*c.*) The point where the Ichtiman road to Tatar-Bazardjik enters the hills.

(*d.*) The position from Guzal to Radvil, closing the two roads from Samakow to Banja; probably including some of the lower slopes of the Rhodope range.

(*e.*) The road from Banja to Simeina.

The reconnaissances above described are such as are essential to a plan for making of the new frontier a line of defence. A complete plan of defence of Eastern Roumelia would demand much more information of the same kind.

If Turkey possessed the power of placing camps or garrisons in the plain south of the principal passes, the artillery for arming the positions in the passes might be kept in the camps instead of being at once placed on the heights, where it would be very difficult to maintain a force during the winter. But as (supposing the power to do so be denied her) the nearest points from which to move artillery to the passes would be Burgas and Adrianople, the process of taking it to the required points would be so slow that it might be still incomplete when the enemy would be ready to threaten the passes. It would be well, therefore, to plan and construct at once the earthen batteries for the heavier guns in the Passes of Kotel, Haïn Boghaz, and Shipka, to place the guns in the batteries, and to form in those positions the means of quartering there during the winter months a number of artillerymen just sufficient to protect and keep in good condition the works and their armament.

(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY, *Major-General.*

The Bosphorus, August 1879.

No. 127*.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 10.)

(No. 687.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 9, 1879, 8·20 P.M.

FOLLOWING from Blunt, dated 9th:—

"With reference to the incident at the Russian Consulate here, reported in my No. 95 of 21st ultimo, the Acting Russian Consul-General yesterday evening threatened the Governor-General of Salonica by letter, and through his interpreter, that if satisfaction is not given him, and authors of outrage punished within twenty-four hours, Russian iron-clads will be sent to bombard Salonica. Accused parties have been in prison since 18th, but Criminal Court declines to convict them as Russian Consul objects to have his evvass confronted with them."

No. 128.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 252.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 10, 1879, 2·15 P.M.

YOURS 686.

Instruct Captain Sale to hold himself in readiness to proceed to Silistria.

No. 129.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Plunkett.**

(No. 185.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 10, 1879, 2·45 P.M.

IT is proposed that Captain Sale, British Commissioner for tracing frontiers of Montenegro, shall proceed to Silistria as British member of Commission to discuss question of Arab-Tabia.

No. 130.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Corbett.

(No. 86.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 10, 1879.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, forwarding a Report from Mr. Vice-Consul Longworth on the subject of the steps taken by him on behalf of the inhabitants of Macrinitza, a petition from whom was inclosed in your despatch No. 205 of the 20th August last.†

The claim of the petitioners to remission of a year's taxes is dependent upon the construction to be placed on the Decree of Amnesty issued by the Porte in the spring of 1878. The French translation of that document communicated to Her Majesty's Government by the Turkish Ambassador runs as follows:—

"5. Rémission des impôts pour la durée d'une année en faveur des villages et fermes, tant Musulmans que Chrétiens, situés dans les localités éprouvées, et qui auraient été endommagées."

You will perceive from the inclosure in Mr. Consul-General Blunt's despatch No. 39 of the 31st July, of which copy was forwarded to you in my despatch No. 74 of the 29th August last, that that gentleman, who was one of the parties to the negotiations with the insurgents, does not consider that the village of Macrinitza is entitled to the benefit of this clause, inasmuch as none of the houses were burnt or destroyed.

Under these circumstances, it would seem that Mr. Longworth has done all that he could properly do on behalf of the petitioners.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 131.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Major-General Hamley.

(No. 63.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 10, 1879.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 85 of the 25th ultimo, and I have to state to you, in reply, that Her Majesty's Government approve the course you pursued, as reported therein, with regard to the concession to Turkey of the route of Tatar-Bazardjik, Samakow, and Kustendil, with the branch to Djuma, as the Turkish military road through the Sandjak of Sophia.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 132.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Major-General Hamley.

(No. 64.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 10, 1879.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 76 of the 14th instant, in which you mention the assistance rendered by Lieutenant de Wolski in the survey of the Bulgarian frontier.

I shall be obliged by your conveying to that officer my thanks for the manner in which he has placed his services at your disposal for this purpose.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

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* Also to Mr. Egerton, Sir J. Walsham, Mr. Adams, and Mr. Macdonell.
† Sir A. H. Layard, No. 624.

No. 133.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Mulet.

(No. 1253.)
Foreign Office, October 10, 1879.

Sir,

WITH reference to your telegram No. 686 of the 8th instant, I have this day requested you by telegraph to instruct Captain Sale to hold himself in readiness to proceed to Silistria to act as British member of the Commission appointed to discuss the Arab-Tabia question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 134.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 550.)
Foreign Office, October 10, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE this day informed you by telegraph that Her Majesty's Government propose to instruct Captain Sale, R.E., who has recently been employed as the British member of the Commission for the delimitation of the Montenegrin frontier, to proceed to Silistria to act in a similar capacity on the Commission which is about to meet there to discuss the Arab-Tabia question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 135.

Consul-General Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 11.)

No. 117. Political.)
Cettinjé, September 27, 1879.

My Lord,

WHEN I had the honour of seeing the Prince yesterday he said that, from the reports reaching him from his Representative at Constantinople, he regretted to observe that an idea seemed to exist at the Porte that the surrender of Goussinjé-Plava might with safety be postponed indefinitely.

Voïvoda Radonich had been quite recently told by Safvet Pasha that before the Turkish Government could occupy itself with matters on the Montenegrin frontiers it had to settle the Greek question; and that after that Moukhtar Pasha would be directed to dissipate the organization of the Albanian League. Not until these difficulties had been surmounted could the Montenegrin solicitations be listened to.

Prince Nicholas continued, perhaps this easy way of putting aside a disagreeable obligation resulted from a wrong impression having been conveyed to the Porte that he was not desirous of obtaining possession of Goussinjé-Plava. If in his conversations with Rizah Pasha and others he had been understood to convey such an idea he now wished to record beyond a doubt that Montenegro stood by the strict execution of the Treaty of Berlin, and that the formal surrender of Goussinjé-Plava was demanded of Turkey. The unfortunate failure of all the crops, which had placed the Black Mountain on the verge of a famine, had of course strengthened His Highness' determination to exhaust every means for obtaining by pacific ends his rights, but he saw, unhappily but too clearly, that the Goussinjé-Plava question would end in blood. In view of this ultimate result, he had already commenced, as I was aware, to collect large stores of provisions at Podgoritza, and the Turkish Government would one day be suddenly surprised to find that he had accepted as a fact the declaration made by its Commissioner to the Boundary Commission that, as far as Turkey was concerned, Goussinjé-Plava was already in the possession of Montenegro.

One warning above all His Highness desired me to take note of. If he was driven to employ force he would certainly not look upon the frontiers traced by the Treaty of Berlin as an impediment to his pursuing his opponents to their last hiding-places.

I am not of opinion that there is any immediate danger of Prince Nicholas acting up to his threats, or that he would refuse to listen to any proposal for accepting a fair exchange for Goussinjé-Plava; but, as His Highness believes that both Turkey and Austria are anxious for the district to remain under Ottoman dominion, he wishes to secure the favourable position of being acknowledged as the one to whom proposals must be made.

I am also still convinced that Montenegro loses nothing by the question being left open, as the power to carryout, when convenient, the threats indulged in by the Prince may prove very useful to him and his friends.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 136.

Consul-General Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 11.)

(No. 118. Political.)
Scutari, September 29, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 114, Political, of the 15th instant, I have the honour to report that Capitan Prenk, the son of the Mirdite Chief, Capitan Cola, returned with me to Scutari from Cettinjé.

He readily accepted, on my recommendation, the condition insisted upon by Ali Haidar Pasha that his submission here should be followed by a visit to Constantinople, where the Governor wishes him to proceed to express personally to the Porte his desire to return under Turkish jurisdiction.

The Pasha has explained to me that he trusts Capitan Prenk's Montenegrin recollections will be obliterated after viewing the vast proportions of the Ottoman Administration at the capital, and that means will there be found to strengthen his natural allegiance.

Although Capitan Prenk is rather simple and retiring in his manners, he is a young man of considerable independence and firmness of character; I, therefore, hope the Turkish Government will not forget that conciliation, accompanied by fair liberality, is the true policy to follow towards the Mirdites and the other Roman Catholic mountain Chiefs and tribes of North Albania.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 137.

Consul-General Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 11.)

(No. 119. Political.)
Scutari, September 29, 1879.

My Lord,

THE petition of which the inclosed is a French translation was handed to me a few days ago by a deputation from the Hotti and Gruda tribes.

It is a formal remonstrance, sealed by all the influential men of the two tribes, against any of their lands being incorporated in the pending cessions of territory to Montenegro.

I have reason to know that the document has been inspired by the Turkish Commissioner, Rizah Pasha, whose proposed line of frontier it advocates.

Captain Sale being the most competent person to consider the topographical value of the arguments offered in the petition, I will merely venture to remark that, even should any lands of Albanians be placed within the Montenegrin frontiers, as there is no question of expropriating the owners, I do not believe in the threats of opposition now made. The mountaineers are likely to prove indifferent as to the Government to which they must pay unavoidable taxes. It was noted when the Dulcigno and Boyana districts were held by Montenegro the Albanian mountaineers in no way abstained from occupying their winter pasture grounds there, and that they quietly submitted to the jurisdiction of the Montenegrin authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 137.

The Chiefs of Hotti and Grudda to Consul-General Kirby Green.

(Traduction.)
Le $\frac{3}{15}$ *Septembre*, 1879 (1295).

A LA suite de l'arrivée dans nos montagnes de la Commission de Délimitation formée par les Envoyés des Grandes Puissances, nous, soussignés Chefs des tribes Montagnardes de Hotti et Grudda, nous nous permettons de vous soumettre les observations suivantes.

Nous apprenons avec regret un bruit qui circule parmi les Monténégrins et suivant lequel la Commission, après qu'elle s'était rendue sur les collines de Chipchanik et Vranja,

où elle interrogea plusieurs des nôtres sur les circonstances du lieu, aurait fait passer la frontière près de Pula Grudda, en laissant les collines de Vranja au Monténégro.

Tout le monde est à même de prouver jusqu'à l'évidence que presque la moitié de la plaine entre Podgoritza et nos montagnes, c'est-à-dire tout le territoire situé en deçà d'une ligne présumée allant de Pula Grudda à l'Eglise de St. Nicolas et au moulin de Hadji Mukhtar, près du vieux pont du Sem, et d'ici à la colline de Baitchina est la propriété exclusive des tribus de Hotti et Grudda, et que en dedans de cette ligne, ni les habitants de Podgoritza, ni ceux des campagnes ne possèdent pas même une parcelle de terre.

Par son Excellence ex-Vali Hussein Pacha, ainsi que par des Consuls résidant à Scutari, nous avons été à différentes reprises assurés de manière positive que leurs Excellences les Plénipotentiaries des Grandes Puissances représentées au Congrès de Berlin ayant tracé la frontière du Monténégro par la susdite plaine de l'échelle de Plavnitza à la Kakaritchka Gora au-dessus de Dinoche, la totalité des terres de Grudda restera à la Turquie.

Pas un seul homme de nos montagnes ne renoncera à l'honneur d'être sujet de la Sublime Porte, sous la domination de laquelle nous vivons depuis cinq ou six siècles, pour passer sous l'administration du Monténégro. C'est un fait dont il n'est pas permis de douter. Nous espérons que l'esprit de justice qui vous distingue vous engagera à faire des efforts pour que la Commission de Délimitation ait a exécuter les décisions du Congrès de Berlin, en les prenant pour base est sans y apporter la moindre modification.

Si par malheur, d'après le bruit que nous venons d'entendre et qui a vivement alarmé tous les esprits à Hotti et Grudda, l'on cédait au Monténégro ne fut-il qu'une petite partie des terrains appartenant à nos montagnes, on foulerait aux pieds nos droits les plus sacrés, car on nous ôterait par-là les territoires fournissant aux gens de Hotti et surtout à ceux de Grudda leurs principaux moyens de subsistance, et on ne leur laisserait que les pierres de leurs montagnes. Une injustice pareille produirait des résultats bien fâcheux; elle nous contraindrait tous à quitter notre patrie, ou bien, pour ne pas courir un si grand rique, à la défendre à outrance et jusqu'au dernier pouce de terrain.

Nous avons l'honneur de vous prévenir dès à présent, M. le Consul-Général, et nous vous réitérons notre prière de vouloir bien veiller à ce que la frontière soit établie conformément aux stipulations du Traité de Berlin et aux assurances qu'on nous à données précédemment, et nous avons, &c.

(Here follow the Seals of twenty-Six Chiefs and Elders of the tribes of Hotti and Grudda).

No. 138.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 11.)

(No. 61. Political.)

My Lord, *Salonica, September* 30, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch I have addressed to Sir Henry Layard relative to the reassuring state of affairs in the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar and contiguous Albanian districts; and to the situation in Macedonia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 138.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Salonica, September 29, 1879.

Sir,

ACCORDING to the accounts of persons who have arrived here within the last few days from Mitrovitza, it would appear that the Mahommedans in the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar are reconciled to the presence of the Austro-Hungarian troops in that province; and that generally the state of affairs in that part of Bosnia and in the contiguous Albanian districts is reassuring.

My informants state that the Ottoman provincial authorities, both civil and military, have actively and seriously exerted their influence to counteract and subdue any symptoms of opposition to the advance of the Austro-Hungarian army; and I also hear that Ghazi Mukhtar Pasha, Governor-General of the Vilayet of Monastir, has dispatched some influential Beys to Prisrend, Ipek, and other Albanian centres for the purpose of exhorting the inhabitants to do nothing likely to disturb the friendly relations subsisting between the Ottoman and Austrian Governments.

Mr. Consul St. John, who is now at Prisrend, will doubtless report to your Excellency on this and other matters of interest in that direction.

I very much regret having to report no change in the situation in Macedonia, where acts of brigandage continue to be perpetrated with growing impunity.

One Greco-Vlach band recently robbed and ill-treated the Greek Archbishop Agathangelos, of Sissanion, in province of Monastir; and other bands have carried off numerous hostages to the mountains.

The state of insecurity also in the districts of Djuma, Menlik, and Nevrocop, contiguous to the Bulgarian Principality, has induced their inhabitants to send pressing appeals for protection to the Porte and Greek Patriarchate at Constantinople.

Several of the brigands in those districts are said to have crossed over from Bulgaria.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 139.

Sir J. Walsham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 11.)

(No. 69. Confidential.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, October* 10, 1879.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 54, Prince Bismarck left Berlin yesterday for Varzin without having seen Prince Gortchacow, and is not likely to return here during the present year.

There is no doubt that private efforts were made to arrange a meeting, and I understand the Russian Ambassador was told, in answer to an inquiry, that if Prince Gortchacow happened to be in Berlin before Prince Bismarck left, he would have no objection to see him.

It is not probable that Prince Bismarck would now return here expressly for this purpose, but should he by any chance be at Berlin when Prince Gortchacow was passing through on his way to St. Petersburgh after leaving Baden, I dare say a meeting between the two Chancellors would be arranged.

No. 140.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 11.)

(No. 688.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 10, 1879.

A SCHEME is under discussion at the Council of Ministers to farm out to the Ottoman Bank, the Société-Générale, and M. Zarifi's Bank, the customs and the indirect taxes for a rent of 3,500,000*l.*, of which 400,000*l.* are to be paid as interest on the loans of 1853, 1860, 1862, and 1863-64; 1,000,000*l.* to the repayment of advances and the account current; and the remainder to the Treasury. The banks to name a Syndicate of Administration, and thirty [*sic*] foreigners to enter services of the Customs and also taxation [?]. Mr. Foster, the Director of Ottoman Bank, approves scheme generally, but is trying to obtain certain modifications.

No. 141.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 11.)

(No. 689.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 10, 1879, 2 P.M.

CAPTAIN SALE is anxious to know whether he may make his preparations for going to Silistria.

No. 142.

Consul-General Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 11, 3 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, October* 10, 1879, 8 P.M.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 117 of the 27th ultimo, I learn from trustworthy Albanian sources that the Montenegrins are making demonstrations against Gussinge [group wrong].

Milanon has left Podgoritza with four cannons, and twelve other pieces of artillery have been dispatched by another route.

Probably these movements are only made with the intention of exercising political pressure, but there is danger of the [group wrong] and ignorant inhabitants of Gussinge being led away into assuming the offensive.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 143.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 11, 9·20 P.M.)

(No. 151.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October* 11, 1879, 4·45 P.M.

THE "Golos" this morning publishes a letter arguing that Afghanistan has lost its independence by the Treaty of Gandamak, and will divide into two parts. If a faithful ally of the British is to rule at Cabul, justice demands that a friend of Russia should rule at Balkh or Herat. The letter significantly points out that there exist plenty of rivals to Yakoob Khan.

No. 144.

Mr. Egerton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 11, 11 P.M.)

(No. 161.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October* 11, 1879, 8 P.M.

I TOLD Baron Calice of proposed appointment of Captain Sale. He approved.

Roumanian Government having applied to the Powers to be represented in Arab-Tabia Commission, Russian answer was favourable, but said that Roumanian would only be a consultative member of the Commission. Italian answer much the same. Austrian Government objects to term "consultative" member, as implying that the Commission itself has the power to decide which is confined to the Cabinets, but are willing that the Roumanian be present at the sittings of the Commission, as his local information may be useful.

No. 145.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 12, 12·30 P.M.)

(No. 691.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 12, 1879, 12·30 P.M.

SAFVET PASHA informs me that the French Government approve Ottoman declaration made at the last sitting of the Plenipotentiaries on the Greek Frontier question.

Count Corti informs me that his Government has also approved of it.

No. 146.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 13.)

(No. 220.)
My Lord, *Athens, October* 1, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose, in duplicate, as published in the "Messager d'Athènes," the Déclaration of the Greek and Ottoman Commissioners made by them respectively at the four Conferences which have been held at Constantinople on the Greco-Turkish frontier question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

Inclosure in No. 146.

Extract from the "Messager d'Athènes" of September 25, 1879.

CONFÉRENCES DE CONSTANTINOPLE.—DÉCLARATIONS DES COMMISSAIRES.

Première Déclaration Grecque.

VOICI le texte de la Déclaration remise par M. Coundouriotis, Premier Ministre Plénipotentiaire Hellène, aux Délégués Ottomans pour la délimitation des frontières Grecques, dans la séance du 15 Août :—

Les Plénipotentiaires du Gouvernement Hellénique ont déclaré qu'ils se réunissent avec les Plenipotentiaires du Gouvernement Ottoman, conformément à l'invitation faite aux deux Etats par les Grandes Puissances; que, pour se conformer strictement à cette invitation, ils doivent reprendre les négociations au point où elles ont été interrompues à Preveza; que les négociations en question ayant été, d'après les Protocoles des séances de Preveza, $\frac{1}{13}$ Février, $\frac{6}{18}$ Mars, rompues à cause de la divergence d'opinion entre les Commissaires du Gouvernement Hellénique déclarant qu'ils ne pouvaient procéder à aucune entente sur la détermination de la nouvelle ligne-frontière du royaume, qui ne serait point basée sur les stipulations du Protocole 13, à savoir, sur la Vallée du Calamas en Epire et sur celle du Pénée en Thessalie, et les Commissaires du Gouvernement Ottoman déclarant cette base inacceptable, les Plénipotentiaires du Gouvernement Hellénique, sur le point de reprendre avec les Plénipotentiaires du Gouvernement Ottoman les négociations rompues à Preveza, ont l'honneur de les prier de vouloir bien déclarer de leur côté s'ils acceptent, comme base de cette reprise, les déterminations du Protocole 13, à savoir, la Vallée de Calamas en Epire et celle du Pénée en Thessalie.

(Signé) A. G. COUNDOURIOTIS.
G. BRAILAS ARMENI.

Contre Déclaration Ottomane.

Voici le texte de la première Déclaration de la Porte lue et déposée en réponse à la Déclaration des Commissaires Hellènes :—

"A la première réunion des Plénipotentiaires du Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman et du Gouvernement Royal Hellénique pour la délimitation de la nouvelle frontière entre les deux pays, les Plénipotentiaires du Gouvernement Hellénique ont prié les Plénipotentiaires de la Sublime Porte de déclarer s'ils acceptent comme base de la reprise des négociations les déterminations du Protocole 13 du Congrès de Berlin, à savoir, la Vallée du Calamas en Epire et celle du Pénée en Thessalie.

"Les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans sont en devoir de faire remarquer que la question telle qu'elle est posée par les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes semble faire supposer que, dans leur pensée, la Sublime Porte aurait donné son adhésion aux indications inscrites au Protocole 13 au sujet d'une rectification de frontières en Epire et en Thessalie, et qu'elle serait dès lors tenue de considérer ces indications comme obligatoires, de telle sorte qu'il lui serait interdit de proposer, de discuter, et d'adopter aucun tracé qui n'aurait pas pour point de départ la Vallée du Salambrias sur le versant de la mer Egée et celle du Calamas du côté de la Mer Ionienne.

"Les Commissaires Ottomans sont convaincus que les Déclarations du Protocole 13 relatives à cet objet ne sauraient dans aucun cas recevoir l'interprétation que paraissaient

vouloir leur donner les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes. Le Premier Plenipotentiaire de France, promoteur de cette Déclaration, en a indiqué lui-même le véritable caractère en proposant au Congrès d'indiquer d'une manière générale, et sans porter atteinte à la souveraineté de la Porte, les limites qu'il voudrait voir assignées à la Grèce. Les termes mêmes de la Déclaration adoptés à la suite de cette proposition, confirment l'idée d'un simple vœu destiné à favoriser les négociations futures.

"On serait encore moins fondé à supposer que les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans à Berlin aient donné à cette Déclaration une adhésion expresse ou tacite; ils ont fait au contraire à ce sujet les réserves les plus formelles, et le Président du Congrès a pris soin dans la séance du 11 Juillet, 1878 (Protocole 18), de constater 'que le Congrès exprimait un vœu et non pas une résolution à laquelle la Porte soit sollicitée de s'associer, les Puissances se bornant à exprimer qu'elles sont animées du désir de voir réussir les négociations, et sur ce point la Porte n'ayant pas d'opinion à donner ni de décision à prendre au Congrès.'"

"Il paraît impossible d'établir plus clairement d'une part que le tracé général indiqué au Protocole 13 a été simplement suggéré mais non déterminé et encore moins imposé par les Puissances, et d'autre part que la Sublime Porte non-seulement ne s'est liée à ce sujet par aucun engagement, mais encore que cet engagement ne lui a jamais été demandé.

"Si les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes admettent cette explication qui définit la véritable situation de la Sublime Porte en ce qui touche la Déclaration du Protocole 13, les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans déclarent être disposés par considération pour le vœu exprimé par les Puissances à prendre comme bases premières des négociations qui vont s'ouvrir les indications mentionnées au dit Protocole, pourvu qu'il soit bien entendu que ces bases ne lient en aucune façon les deux Gouvernements, qui pourront librement les discuter et les modifier au même titre que tel autre point de départ des parties."

Deuxième Déclaration Grecque.

Seconde Déclaration remise et déposée par M. Coundouriotis dans la séance de Samedi, 6 Septembre, de la Commission Turco-Hellénique:—

"La réponse que MM. les Plénipotentiaires du Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman se sont plu à donner dans la séance de Dimanche, $\frac{18}{31}$ Août, à la Déclaration faite par les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes dans la première séance, a deux parties bien distinctes.

"1. MM. les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans ayant été priés par leurs collègues Hellènes de déclarer s'il acceptaient comme bases des négociations à reprendre les stipulations du Protocole 13 du Congrès de Berlin, ont allégué, avant de répondre à cette question, que le Protocole 13 n'avait aucune force obligatoire et ne contenait qu'un vœu du Congrès; ils ont invoqué les paroles prononcées dans le Congrès par son Excellence le Premier Plénipotentiaire de la France, lors de la proposition faite par lui et concernant la rectification des frontières Helléniques; ils ont répété les arguments mis en avant à Prevesa par les Commissaires de la Sublime Porte, comme il appert des Protocoles 1 et 3 des séances des Commissaires des deux pays.

"2. Après cela, les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans, répondant à la question posée par leurs collègues Hellènes, à savoir, s'ils acceptaient ou non comme base des négociations à reprendre les stipulations du Protocole 13, ils ont déclaré: 'qu'ils sont disposés, par considération pour le vœu exprimé par les Puissances, à prendre comme bases premières des négociations qui vont s'ouvrir les indications mentionnées au dit Protocole, pourvu qu'il soit bien entendu que ces bases ne lient en aucune façon les deux Gouvernements, qui pourront librement les discuter et les modifier au même titre que tel autre point de départ qui aurait pu être proposé par l'une ou l'autre des parties.'"

"Quant à ce qui regarde la première partie de cette réponse des Plénipotentiaires Ottomans, bien que les Commissaires du Gouvernement Hellénique à Prevesa aient déjà réfuté de pareilles allégations faites par les Commissaires Ottomans, comme il appert du Protocole 4 de leurs séances, néanmoins les Plénipotentiaires et le Gouvernement Helléniques ont l'honneur de faire remarquer que si le Gouvernement Ottoman regarde le Protocole 13 comme n'ayant pour lui aucune force obligatoire, le Gouvernement Hellénique, auquel par le susdit Protocole fut adressée la même invitation qu'à la Sublime Porte, la regarde comme ayant pour lui—le Gouvernement Hellénique—une force obligatoire; par conséquent il pense ne pouvoir s'en écarter. Les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes sont d'ailleurs d'avis que la manière de penser de chacune des deux parties sur la force du dit Protocole est un sujet étranger à la question posée par les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes, qui ont prié leur collègues de déclarer s'ils acceptent ou non les stipulations du Protocole 13 comme base des négociations à entamer.

"Quant à ce qui regarde la seconde partie de la réponse des Plénipotentiaires Ottomans, ceux du Gouvernement Hellénique ont l'honneur de faire remarquer à leurs collègues que s'ils acceptent comme bases des négociations à reprendre les indications du Protocole 13 ainsi qu'ils l'ont déclaré, il ne serait pas compatible avec une pareille déclaration que les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans se réservent néanmoins la faculté de modifier cette base ou de s'en départir même pendant le cours des négociations. L'acceptation d'une base quelconque par les Plénipotentiaires des deux pays les oblige les uns aussi bien que les autres à ne pas s'éloigner de cette base. La liberté que les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans voudraient réserver aux deux parties d'abandonner ou de modifier pendant le cours des négociations la base une fois posée met complétement à néant leur décision de l'accepter.

"Pour ces causes, les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes, tout en étant d'avis que leur demande adressée à leurs collègues dans leur première séance était suffisamment claire, se font un devoir de la leur adresser de nouveau, et prient leurs Excellences les Plénipotentiaires de la Sublime Porte de bien vouloir déclarer s'ils acceptent comme base de leurs négociations les indications du Protocole 13, à savoir, la Vallée du Pénée (Salambria) sur le versant de la mer Egée, et celle du Calamas du côté de la Mer Ionienne.

"Les Plénipotentiaires du Gouvernement Hellénique aiment à espérer que leurs collègues Ottomans, animés de l'esprit de conciliation qui seul pourrait mener à bonne fin l'arrangement de la question, voudront bien donner à cette demande une réponse claire et précise.

(Signé) A. G. COUNDOURIOTIS.
P. BRAILA ARMENI.

Deuxième Déclaration Ottomane.

Voici le texte de la deuxième Déclaration de la Porte lue et déposée en réponse à la deuxième Déclaration des Commissaires Hellènes:—

"La nouvelle Déclaration que les Plénipotentiaires du Gouvernement Royal Hellénique ont lue et déposée dans la séance du 6 Septembre a convaincu les Plénipotentiaires du Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman de la nécessité d'une explication plus complète et plus catégorique sur les divergences de vue qui divisent les Représentants des deux Etats. L'examen attentif du contenu de cette Déclaration sera pour les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans l'occasion naturelle non-seulement de justifier leur attitude et leur manière de voir, mais encore d'élucider définitivement la question si laborieusement discutée jusqu'ici au sein de la Conférence.

"MM. les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes, répondant à la Déclaration faite dans la deuxième séance par les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans, veulent établir tout d'abord que cette Déclaration se divise en deux parties distinctes: l'une tendant à démontrer que les stipulations du Protocole No. 13 du Congrès de Berlin n'ont aucune force obligatoire et ne contiennent qu'un vœu du Congrès; et l'autre acceptant comme base des négociations actuelles ces mêmes stipulations sous la réserve de les discuter et de les modifier au besoin.

"Les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans considèrent cette division du contenu de leur Déclaration en deux parties indépendantes l'une de l'autre comme le résultat d'une erreur, et comme cette erreur pourrait engendrer quelque malentendu, ils prient leurs collègues de Grèce de vouloir bien constater que la première partie de leur Déclaration est indissolublement liée à la seconde et lui sert d'introduction et de justification, en ce sens, qu'elle explique pourquoi la Sublime Porte réserve aux deux parties la faculté de discuter et de modifier les indications du Protocole qu'elle accepte d'ailleurs comme base première des négociations qui vont s'ouvrir.

"Les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans sont également obligés de relever que MM. les Plénipotentiaires de Grèce ont très-improprement désigné les indications du Protocole No. 13 par le mot 'stipulations,' qui implique l'idée d'une Convention formelle qui serait intervenue entre les parties et créerait entre elles des droits et des devoirs: ce qui n'est point le cas.

"MM. les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes déclarent ensuite 'que si le Gouvernement Ottoman regarde le Protocole No. 13 comme n'ayant pour lui aucune force obligatoire, le Gouvernement Hellénique le regarde comme ayant pour lui—Gouvernement Hellénique—une force obligatoire, et que par conséquent il ne pense pas pouvoir s'en écarter.' Ils ajoutent 'que la manière de penser de chacune des deux parties sur la force du dit Protocole est un sujet étranger à la question posée par eux à leurs collègues Ottomans sur l'acceptation ou la non acceptation du Protocole No. 13 comme base des négociations à entamer.'

"Ainsi MM. les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes proclament leur impuissance à s'écarter des indications du Protocole, c'est-à-dire à se départir de la Vallée de Calamas du côté de la Mer Ionienne, et de la Vallée du Pénéus du côté de la Mer Egée, comme zone-frontière entre l'Empire Ottoman et la Grèce. Ils veulent bien admettre aujourd'hui que la Sublime Porte n'est liée par aucun engagement, mais ils considèrent leur Gouvernement comme étant lui-même irrévocablement engagé.

"Les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans croient pouvoir démontrer à leurs collègues de Grèce que l'obligation qui lierait suivant eux leur Gouvernement n'existe point en réalité. Il suffit pour cela de rappeler les paroles prononcées par le premier Plénipotentiaire de France au Congrès de Berlin, lorsqu'il a saisi le Congrès d'une proposition pour la rectification de la frontière Hellénique.

"Le Protocole No. 13 les reproduit ainsi qu'il suit:—

"Le Premier Plénipotentiaire de France croit donc servir également les intérêts des deux pays en proposant au Congrès d'indiquer, d'une manière générale, et sans porter atteinte à la souveraineté de la Porte, les limites qu'il voudrait voir assignées à la Grèce. L'autorité de la Haute Assemblée Européenne donnerait aux deux Gouvernements Ottoman et Grec la force morale nécessaire, au premier, pour consentir à des concessions opportunes, au second, pour résister à des revendications exagérées. Mais, pour atteindre ce but, son Excellence pense qu'il faut, d'une part, ne point solliciter de la Porte des sacrifices impossibles, de l'autre, faire appel à la modération de la Grèce. Le Premier Plénipotentiaire de France a donc regardé comme utile de tracer comme base aux négociations, une ligne générale montrant, à la fois, à la Turquie la mesure des intentions de l'Europe, et à la Grèce les limites qu'elle ne doit point dépasser. Tel est l'objet de la résolution suivante qu'il a l'honneur de soumettre, d'accord avec le Premier Plénipotentiaire d'Italie, aux délibérations du Congrès.

"Ces mots: 'montrant à la fois à la Turquie la mesure des intentions de l'Europe et à la Grèce les limites qu'elle ne doit pas dépasser,' indiquent clairement et sans équivoque que le tracé des Vallées du Calamas et du Pénéus est pour la Grèce un maximum. Il s'ensuit dès lors et non moins logiquement, que la Grèce, tenue de respecter ce maximum, est parfaitement libre de ne point l'atteindre et de réduire ses prétentions.

"Si toutefois le Gouvernement Hellénique, bien que n'étant point lié par le Congrès de Berlin, veut se considérer lui-même comme lié afin d'échapper à toute démonstration qui, dans le cours de la discussion, pourrait l'induire à modifier les bases indiquées dans le Protocole No. 13, les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans, tout en regrettant cette résolution, ne croient pas devoir continuer à la combattre, et se bornent à en préciser et à en faire ressortir les graves et inévitables conséquences.

"Ces conséquences sont:—

"10. Que les Vallées du Calamas et du Pénéus sont hors et au-dessus de discussion, puisqu'en supposant que les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans viennent à démontrer que cette ligne générale est défectueuse et contraire au but proposé et aux intérêts des deux Etats, cette démonstration serait stérile dès l'instant où le Gouvernement Hellénique s'est interdit d'en tenir compte;

"20. Que dans ces conditions, la discussion à laquelle les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes et les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans se convient actuellement, serait superflue et presque dérisoire puisqu'elle n'aurait plus d'objet.

"30. Qu'enfin et pour les mêmes raisons l'invitation réitérée des Plénipotentiaires Hellènes aux Plénipotentiaires Ottomans de déclarer s'ils exceptent les indications du Protocole No. 13 équivaut à l'invitation de céder immédiatement sans examen ni discussion au Royaume de Grèce tout ou partie du territoire situé au sud des Vallées du Calamas et du Pénéus.

"Les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans ne croient pas que la justesse et la rigueur de ces déductions puissent être contestées et sont dès lors autorisés à prier leurs collègues de Grèce de vouloir bien reconnaître combien étaient fondées et nécessaires les réserves dont ils ont accompagné leur acceptation des indications du Protocole No. 13 comme bases des négociations actuelles. Ce sont en effet ces réserves qui ont amené le Gouvernement Hellénique à proclamer le caractère, à ses yeux, invariable de ces indications et, comme conséquence, l'inutilité de toute discussion à cet égard.

"Ce qui précède répond surabondamment à la dernière partie de la Déclaration Hellénique. Quant à l'interprétation donnée par MM. les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes au mot 'base' qui représenterait, suivant eux, quelque chose de fixe et d'immuable que les deux parties ne pourraient ni abandonner ni modifier, les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans, sans rechercher la valeur de cette définition, se bornent à faire remarquer que les Puissances n'ont pas entendu le mot 'base' dans le sens indiqué par les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes, puisque chaque ligne du Protocole démontre qu'elles ont voulu laisser aux parties toute

liberté de discussion. Il convient d'ajouter que les Puissances, en déclarant être prêtes à leur médiation en cas de désaccord entre les deux Etats, admettent implicitement que la base indiquée n'est point invariable, autrement la médiation offerte serait évidemment superflue, car les Puissances n'ayant pas la faculté de s'écarter de cette base, devraient simplement la confirmer.

"En conclusion, les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans déclarent qu'ils ne sauraient répondre à la seconde invitation qui leur est adressé par les Plénipotentiaires du Gouvernement Hellénique qu'en maintenant et en confirmant leur Déclaration précédente lue et déposée dans la séance du 31 Août. Ils constatent de nouveau que cette réponse ne pouvait être conçue dans des termes différents et que l'acceptation pure et simple et sans réserve des indications du Protocole comme base des négociations aurait été considérée comme l'équivalent d'une cession territoriale faite à la Grèce au seuil même et en dehors des négociations.

"Si les Plénipotentiaires du Gouvernement Hellénique n'avaient point soulevé ce regrettable incident en produisant leur première Déclaration, les négociations se seraient ouvertes sans difficulté et dans les meilleures conditions pour les deux parties. En effet, les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans auraient purement et simplement déclaré qu'ils sont prêts à entrer en discussion sur les bases de négociation indiquées au Congrès de Berlin et à rechercher de concert avec leurs collègues de Grèce si la ligne générale recommandée par les Puissances répond aux intérêts respectifs des deux Etats ou s'il convient de l'abandonner ou de la modifier en vue de ces mêmes intérêts.

"MM. les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes voudront bien remarquer que ce langage n'est que la reproduction et la confirmation du dernier paragraphe de la précédente Déclaration des Plénipotentiaires Ottomans qui portait qu'ils sont disposés par considération pour le vœu exprimé par les Puissances à prendre comme bases premières des négociations qui vont s'ouvrir, les indications du Protocole No. 13, pourvu qu'il soit bien entendu que ces bases ne lient en aucune façon les deux Gouvernements qui pourront librement les discuter et les modifier au même titre que tout autre point de départ qui aurait pu être proposé par l'une ou l'autre des parties.

"Les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans restent animés des mêmes dispositions loyales et conciliantes et seraient heureux de voir leurs collègues s'associer aujourd'hui à un programme qui repose à la fois,—ils n'hésitent pas à l'affirmer,—sur la vérité et sur la raison.

"Que MM. les Plénipotentiaires du Gouvernement Royal du Grèce veuillent bien considérer qu'en renonçant à un système qui supprime toute discussion utile et en reconnaissant qu'ils ne sont point condamnés à rester sourds à tout argument qui leur serait présenté dans le cours de la discussion, ils n'invalident ni n'altèrent en aucune façon le *desideratum* extrême de leur Gouvernement, puisqu'ils resteront toujours maîtres de leurs résolutions. Ils y gagneront de s'être ménagé l'heureuse éventualité d'une entente entre les deux Etats et peut-être l'occasion de réformer eux-mêmes, après examen contradictoire, leurs idées actuelles."

No. 147.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 13.)

(No. 231.) *Athens, October* 1, 1879.

My Lord,

THE news of a new alliance between the German Empire and Austro-Hungary, which has lately been widely circulated in the European press, has produced a considerable sensation in Greece.

Some Athenian newspapers see in such an alliance a probable check to the expansion of Panslavism in the East, but the public generally are disposed to think that Austria-Hungary, encouraged by Germany to extend their territory towards the East, will not miss an opportunity of increasing their dominion in the Balkan Peninsula towards the Ægean Sea, and that thus the Hellenic element will find their aspirations frustrated.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT

No. 148.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 13.)

(No. 483.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, October 1, 1879.*

MY German and Austrian colleagues have, on more than one occasion lately, informed me that Baron Jomini gave them to understand that Her Majesty's Government had acceded to the proposal of the Russian Government to refer the question of the bridge over the Danube near Silistria to a Special Commission of Civil Engineers. Baron Jomini had not told them this positively, but had said that, as far as he understood the answer which your Lordship had given to M. Bartholomei, he gathered that Her Majesty's Government had more or less agreed to accept the Russian proposal.

Having occasion to see Baron Jomini this afternoon on other business I took the opportunity to turn the conversation on to this subject, and reminded his Excellency that the answer which your Lordship had given to the Russian Chargé d'Affaires (as reported in your Lordship's despatch No. 519 of the 17th ultimo) could not be construed into an acceptance of the Russian proposal. On the contrary, your Lordship had said that there seemed to Her Majesty's Government to be no advantage to be gained in making a change, which had not been provided for in the Treaty, in order to repose confidence in a new Commission, the composition of which was left undefined.

Baron Jomini, who, however, did not seem to know exactly what had taken place between your Lordship and M. Bartholomei, replied that your answer was, at all events, not a direct refusal, and he trusted that Her Majesty's Government would no longer refuse their concurrence when they saw that all the other Governments interested in this question had already acceded to the Russian proposal.

His Excellency went on to say that the Russian Government had sent out a circular proposing that the new Commission of Civil Engineers should assemble on the $\frac{1}{2}\frac{5}{7}$th instant, but that M. Bartholomei appeared to have hesitated about making this proposal to your Lordship, as he feared you would not be inclined to accept it.

Baron Jomini did not, however, know for certain what M. Bartholomei had eventually done in this matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

P.S.—Your Lordship's despatches Nos. 522 and 524 of the 19th and 23rd ultimo respectively, informing me of Her Majesty's Government's adherence to the Russian proposal, have just reached me.

F. R. P.

No. 149.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 13.)

(No. 486.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, October 3, 1879.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 513 of the 17th ultimo, respecting ships which have been made over by the Russian Government to Bulgaria, I have the honour to report that the "Cronstadt Gazette" states that the schooner "Kelasuri," which, during and after the late war with Turkey, was stationed at Naples, is now being fitted out, and will also be presented to the Bulgarian Principality. The schooner, it is said, is expected to arrive at Varna in about ten days.

According to the Russian Navy List, the "Kolasuri" carried, when attached to the Russian Black Sea fleet, four guns, and her engines were of sixty horse-power. Her measurements are:—Tonnage, 326; length, 129 ft. 4 in.; beam, 20 ft. 3 in.; draught, fore, 9 ft. 7 in., aft, 10 ft. 7 in.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 150.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 13.)

(No. 513. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, October 9, 1879.*

JUST as the messenger is about to start, I have received, from a confidential source, the inclosed official Return of the actual strength of the Russian army on the 25th August/6th September last.

From this Return it would appear that, on that date, there were about 150,000 men more with the colours than there ought to have been on the proper peace footing. It must, however, be remembered that the late army of occupation in Bulgaria has since then been reduced to the peace standard.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure in No. 150.

LIST of Active Russian Army.

(Confidential.)

	Officers.				Non-Combatants.			Total of Soldiers and Non-Commissioned Officers; Combatants and Non-Combatants.	Horses.		
	Generals.	Superior Officers.	Subalterns.	Total.	Employés.	Non-Commissioned Officers.	Soldiers.		Cavalry.	Artillery.	Train.
Active Army—											
Guard—											
Nominal strength	46	160	1,801	1,707	226	1,513	32,008	44,455	6,094	805	761
Effective strength	44	173	1,685	1,852	225	1,280	30,108	16,610	7,928	836	622
Line—											
Nominal strength	363	2,330	15,796	18,329	2,389	17,054	424,043	597,035	84,160	13,272	13,644
Effective strength	282	2,319	15,103	18,704	2,038	14,015	389,376	568,190	33,750	17,499	15,670
Local troops—											
Nominal strength	47	752	5,942	6,731	681	5,566	174,467	224,702	8,010	908	1,279
Effective strength	49	878	6,372	6,291	687	4,810	205,494	245,761	8,122	903	1,178
Offices, Institutes, Central Direction, and Provincial Military Control—											
Nominal strength	495	1,476	2,501	4,472	1,678	1,678	5,860	53,882	979	226	6,667
Effective strength	521	2,113	2,840	5,480	1,267	1,267	7,040	52,616	625	259	9,685
Total—											
Nominal strength	890	4,618	25,540	31,038	10,030	73,288	637,278	880,164	51,843	15,501	22,246
Effective strength	899	5,481	26,040	8,426	9,426	61,744	738,084	963,123	50,732	19,430	27,425
Cossacks and Militia—											
Nominal strength	4	385	1,843	2,232	113	4,109	54,242	64,165	33,350	1,753	3,814
Effective strength	4	306	1,758	2,068	113	3,620	50,893	58,933	40,630	1,356	8,442

No. 151.

Major-General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 13.)

(No. 91.)
My Lord,

London, October 11, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that, the business of the Bulgarian Boundary Commission being finished, I arrived in London on the 8th instant from Turkey, accompanied by Captain Jones. Major Ardagh, being desirous of visiting some places in Asia Minor and Russia, obtained permission, with my concurrence, from the authorities at the Horse Guards to defer his arrival till November.

On the occasions when the other officers attached to the Commission returned home, I had the honour to submit some observations to your Lordship on the services they had performed, and I now beg permission to do the same in the case of these two officers, who remained with me till the close of the business.

Major Ardagh was in charge of the topographical party of officers dispatched to the frontier of Bulgaria between Samakow and Tatar-Bazardjik in May to sketch part of the ground and passes there for the use of the Commission. They met with very bad weather, but the work was satisfactorily done and ready for the Commission on its arrival.

When the Commission separated for the sake of despatch, I appointed Major Ardagh to accompany that part of it which proceeded to the Macedonian frontier of Bulgaria, in order that he might report to me the results of his observations on that portion of the boundary-line before the Commission, on its reassembly, should define it.

He was again in charge of the topographical party which I dispatched in July to the Macedonian frontier of Bulgaria to make good deficiencies in the Russian map. The work, executed rapidly and under difficult circumstances, in a mountainous and desert country, was very well done, and equal in all respects to the deliberate survey of the Russian topographers. In this, as in the former case, the direction of the party demanded skill, energy, and resource.

Captain Jones officiated from the first as one of the Secretaries of the Commission, and also as my own Secretary, which duties he performed completely to my satisfaction. He was also one of the topographical party dispatched to the Macedonian frontier in July, and remained with it till its work was finished; when he resumed his duties as Secretary. He is a very trustworthy officer, of steady judgment, zealous and intelligent, a very good man of business, and possesses an excellent knowledge of French and German, speaking both languages fluently. He has been very serviceable to the Commission, and would always be found valuable in case your Lordship should have further occasion for the services of an officer of his rank.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

No. 152.

Mr. Adams to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 13.)

(No. 1023.)
My Lord,

Paris, October 11, 1879.

I HAVE informed M. Waddington, as stated in your Lordship's telegram of 2·45 P.M. yesterday, that it is proposed by Her Majesty's Government that Captain Sale, British Commissioner for tracing the Montenegrin frontiers, shall proceed to Silistria as the British member of the Technical Commission, which is to discuss the Arab-Tabia question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 153.

Count Károlyi to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 13.)

(Private.)
Dear Lord Salisbury,

Belgrave Square, October 13, 1879.

WITH reference to your letter to Count Montgelas, of yesterday's date, I hasten to inform you that the French Government have stated that the desire expressed by

Roumania to be officially represented on the Technical Commission at Silistria seems to be excluded by the Treaty of Berlin, as the new Commission is only the continuation of the old one. M. Waddington, however, sees no objection to Roumania being represented, "officieusement et à titre de renseignement," by a Special Delegate on that Commission.

Baron Haymerle has accepted this view, which seems all the more plausible as the Commission will only have a consultative vote, the decision resting with the Cabinets.

I am further directed to inform you that the Delegate nominated by my Government is Staff Lieutenant-Colonel de Jaeger.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) KÁROLYI.

No. 154.

Mr. R. Thomson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 13.)

(No. 52.)
(Telegraphic.) *Tehran, October* 13, 1879, 1·30 P.M.

LATEST information from Chat is that General Terguiasow was there with about 4,000 cavalry withdrawn to that place after recent defeat, there being no forage for them near Karee Kala, whither bulk of army had retreated.

Following statement is derived from a Russian source :—

On the Emperor's birthday the flying column, numbering 2,000 men, advanced; they were attacked by 15,000 Turkomans, and defended themselves till all their cartridges were expended. They then retreated, having lost 23 officers and 500 men killed and wounded. They fell back on Chat, whence there will be no further advance this year. There had been and was much sickness among the troops.

It is reported that 4,000 men were in camp at Baku ready to embark for Chekishler, but the belief is that, owing to the reverses sustained and the lateness of the season, this year's campaign is at an end.

(Communicated to India.)

No. 155.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 13, 5 P.M.)

(No. 692.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, October* 13, 1879, 1 P.M.

CONSUL-GENERAL BLUNT telegraphs following, dated yesterday :—

"The Acting Russian Consul-General has come to an [? understanding] at Salonica with reference to late incident, and the affair may now be considered as definitely arranged."

No. 156.

Sir J. Walsham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 13, 6 P.M.)

(No. 70.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, October* 13, 1869.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 55, Minister for Foreign Affairs informs me that German Government will also appoint a military engineer as their Commissioner to take part in the discussion relative to the question of Arab-Tabia; and his Excellency understands that Russia intends to adopt a similar course. I told him that I believed Austria would do so, and he said that this was the case.

No. 150*.

Musurus Pasha to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 13.)

My Lord, *Ambassade Impériale Ottomane, Londres, le* 10 *Octobre*, 1879.

LES Patriarches de Constantinople, d'Alexandrie, et de Jérusalem, et l'Archevêque de Sinaï, ayant adressé au Prince de Roumanie une requête pour solliciter le réglement de la question des Lieux-Saints d'Orient dont les propriétés, connues sous le nom de Biens Dédiés, ont été confisquées par les Principautés Moldo-Valaques, la Sublime Porte s'est crue en droit et en devoir de soutenir cette demande auprès du Gouvernement Roumain. Aussi son Altesse Safvet Pacha a-t-il adressé au Ministre de la Sublime Porte à Bucharest la dépêche dont votre Excellence trouvera ci-joint la copie.

En me faisant part de ce qui précède, la Sublime Porte m'a invité à faire auprès du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine de la Grande Bretagne les démarches nécessaires pour qu'il voulût bien recommander à la Roumanie de donner à cette question une solution prompte et équitable.

Je me fais, par conséquent, un devoir de m'acquitter par la présente note des instructions du Gouvernement Impérial sur cette question, et je ne doute point que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine n'accueille avec les sentiments de justice qui le caractérisent cette démarche de la Sublime Porte, et qu'il ne prête son appui aux légitimes réclamations des quatre Eglises d'Orient.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) MUSURUS.

Inclosure in No. 150*.

Safvet Pasha to Suleiman Bey.

Le 25 *Septembre*, 1879.

LES Patriarches de Constantinople, d'Alexandrie, et de Jérusalem, et l'Archevêque de Sinaï, ont adressé à Son Altesse Royale le Prince de Roumanie une requête, en date du 27 Juillet dernier (v. s.), par laquelle ils sollicitent le réglement de la question des Lieux-Saints d'Orient, dont les propriétés, connues sous le nom de Biens Dédiés, ont été confisquées par les Principautés Moldo-Valaques.

La Sublime Porte est en droit et en devoir de soutenir les intérêts des communautés religieuses Ottomanes du rite Orthodoxe, qui ont été injustement dépouillées de leurs biens, et qui, malgré leurs réclamations incessantes, n'ont pu obtenir ni la restitution de leurs propriétés, ni même une compensation légitime.

Je vous prie, en conséquence, d'entretenir le Gouvernement Princier de cette question et d'en poursuivre le réglement.

Je dois vous rappeler à ce sujet que, lors des Préliminaires de Paix de San Stéfano, les droits des communautés religieuses du rite Orthodoxe sur les Biens Dédiés ont été formellement réservés par une note adressée par les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans aux Plénipotentiaires Russes, en date du 3 Mars, 1878, et à laquelle ces derniers ont répondu d'une manière affirmative.

En outre, il résulte du Protocole 15 du Congrès de Berlin qu'une motion a été faite par les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans pour le réglement du différend entre les Lieux-Saints d'Orient et la Roumanie, et que la Haute Assemblée, après examen et discussion, a décidé que les Représentants des Puissances recommanderaient à la sollicitude de leurs Gouvernements la solution de cette affaire, soit sur les anciennes bases, soit sur celles qui seront le résultat des délibérations du Congrès, c'est-à-dire sur les bases des garanties accordées à tous les cultes dans la Roumanie.

La Sublime Porte désire que cette question puisse être résolue sans plus de retard et d'une manière équitable, et j'ai l'espoir que le Gouvernement Princier de Roumanie comprendra qu'il est à la fois de son honneur et de son intérêt de ne point laisser plus longtemps en souffrance les légitimes réclamations des quatre Eglises d'Orient.

No. 157.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Her Majesty's Embassies and Mr. White.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 13, 1879, 6·30 P.M.

INFORM Government to which you are accredited that Her Majesty's Government agree to Roumania being represented "officieusement et à titre de renseignement" on the Silistrian Commission.

No. 158.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Adams.

(No. 1223.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 13, 1879.

I HAVE received your despatches Nos. 1004 and 1005 of the 6th and 7th instant, referring to the desire felt by the Roumanian Government to be represented in the Technical Commission, which is to meet at Silistria on the 27th instant, with reference to the Arab-Tabia question, and the latter of which incloses M. Callimaki Catargi's note on this subject, in which he represents that the Roumanian Representatives might usefully assist at this Commission in consequence of their special knowledge of localities.

I have now to request that you will inform the French Government, as well as the Roumanian Representatives, that Her Majesty's Government agree to Roumania being represented "officieusement et à titre de renseignement" on the Silistria Commission.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 159.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Her Majesty's Embassies and Mr. White.

My Lord,

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 13, 1879.

HER Majesty's Government have been made aware, by a note received from M. Callimaki-Catargi through Her Majesty's Minister at Paris, of the desire felt by the Roumanian Government to be represented in the Technical Commission, which is to meet at Silistria on the 27th instant, with reference to the Arab-Tabia question, and at which they represent that they might usefully assist by their special knowledge of localities.

I have accordingly to request that you will inform the Government to which you are accredited, that Her Majesty's Government agree to Roumania being represented "officieusement et à titre de renseignement" on the Silistria Commission.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 160.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 14.)

(No. 177.)

My Lord, *Sophia, September* 27, 1879.

REFERRING to your Lordship's despatch No. 80 of the 19th June, present year, with the inclosed petition, purporting to be from the Mahommedan inhabitants of the Varna district, and dated the 3rd June, same year, as also to my despatches Nos. 132, 141, and 160, present series, relative to the same topic, I have now the honour to transmit to your Lordship the inclosed copy of an official communication regarding the same matter, sent to me by the Bulgarian Minister for Foreign Affairs three days since.

In this communication I observe—

1. That so far as actual and proven facts of murder and other deeds of violence go, this document tallies less with the statements contained in the above-mentioned petition, than with the Reports already sent to me on these matters by the British Vice-Consuls at Varna and Rustchuk, the substance of which I have already had the honour of reporting to your Lordship.

2. That it indicates a very mixed, and by no means exclusively Christian or, to use the word in its narrow and ethnographical sense, Bulgarian character to the misdoers; and thus implies that the origin of the evils complained of or constated is to be sought rather in the then unsettled condition of the eastern districts and in the general incentives to brigandage, than in religious, sectarian, or ethnological motives.

3. That it lays the chiefest blame of these disorders on brigands crossing over from the East Roumelian frontier, as also on the dismissed Ottoman soldiery returning from the late war.

4. That it notes the administrative difficulty in regard of the repression of brigandage arising from the want of inter-communication between the Bulgarian and the East Roumelian Governments, the latter being strictly forbidden to correspond on any subject whatever with the authorities of the Bulgarian Principality, except through the medium of the Grand Vizier.

Thus far the inclosed document, by statement or by implication. I have now the honour to add, as comment:—

That I have reason to think that the amount of violence committed by Christian brigands within the Varna and Pravadi districts, during the first five months of the present year, while exaggerated in the already cited petition, has also been not a little extenuated or even suppressed in the inclosed communication.

That His Highness the Prince has since his arrival done his best to repress such misdoings, and has so far succeeded that, at the present day, Mahommedan life, property, and honour are no less secure in the eastern districts, and, indeed, throughout the entire Principality, than Christian.

That in his efforts to this end His Highness has been, on the whole, fairly well seconded by the district officials, and yet more so by public Bulgarian opinion.

That what acts of violence and crime are yet from time to time committed in Eastern Bulgaria are, if not wholly, yet almost wholly, due to bands of brigands organized with great impartiality out of Christian, Mahommedan, and Zinganch or Gipsy ruffians; and that the starting point and retreat of these bands is situated among the Balkans, within the East Roumelian territory.

Lastly, that the embargo laid by the Porte on the inter-communication of the two Governments is, and, so long as it is maintained, will be, mainly responsible for the perpetuation of the evil.

In the present despatch, conjointly with those which I have already had the honour of writing on this topic, your Lordship possesses, I respectfully trust and believe, the entire substantial truth of what has passed in the Varna and Pravadi districts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

Inclosure in No. 160.

M. Balabanoff to Consul-General Palgrave.

Sophia, le $\frac{12}{24}$ *Septembre*, 1879.

M. l'Agent,

LE Gouverneur de Varna vient d'envoyer au Ministère des renseignements sur les faits que vous m'aviez signalés verbalement le $\frac{14}{26}$ Juillet, 1879, en me faisant en même temps prendre copie d'une pétition adressée par quelques Turcs du Gouvernement de Varna à la Sublime Porte et communiquée par elle au Foreign Office.

Sans vouloir examiner ici la véritable origine de cette pétition, voici, en resumé, à quoi se réduisent les faits en question:

(*a.*) Pour le village Sora ou Sava, arrondissement de Pravadi: ce village aurait, en effet, été attaqué, il y a cinq mois, pendant la nuit, par une bande de brigands dont, toutefois, on n'a jamais pu savoir ni le nombre ni la nationalité.

D'après les témoignages recueillis sur lieu et place, rien n'indique que c'étaient des Bulgares; tout fait, au contraire, croire que c'étaient des Turcs du village Tchenguée, arrondissement d'Aïdos, dans la Roumélie Orientale. La veille même de l'attaque, une dizaine d'individus de ce village s'étaient présentés à Sora pour demander de l'argent.

Il résulte des recherches faites que Topal-Hassan a été tué, en effet, par ces brigands, qu'un vol de 1,500 piastres a été commis dans la maison d'un certain Tanguir, et qu'une grange a été mise au feu.

D'autres faits ou vexations le Rapport du Gouverneur de Varna n'en fait aucune mention.

(*b.*) Pour le village de Djirmé, arrondissement de Pravadi: au mois de Mars, des gendarmes de la police d'Aïdos seraient venus dans ce village avec ordre de prendre aux habitants les armes qu'ils étaient sensés posséder. L'un de ces gendarmes, ayant appris que Suleiman Ismaïl avait un fusil, se serait mis à sa recherche; un conflit s'en étant suivi, un autre gendarme tira sur Suleiman et le laissa raide mort. Quelques jours après, une trentaine d'individus, également venus du village Tchenguié d'Aïdos, auraient essayé d'enfoncer la porte de la mison de Bekir Effendi, mais n'ayant pas réussi, ils se seraient enfuis en toutes jambes.

(*c.*) Le village Kissik appartenant à la Roumélie Orientale, nos autorités ne pouvaient faire faire des recherches sur les faits signalés.

(*d.*) Pour le village de Kutchuk-Tépé: d'après les renseignements recueillis sur lieu et place, au lieu de vingt Bulgares, comme porte la pétition, il n'y aurait eu qu'une bande de cinq brigands Turcs sous la commande d'un certain Déli-Mehmed; c'est cette bande qui a pillé le magasin d'un manufacturier du pays et qui à tué Mehmed Effendi, accouru au secours de son frère.

Les noms de certains de ces brigands sont cités dans les Rapports adressés au Ministère.

Tels sont, M. l'Agent, en résumé, les faits qui se seraient passés dans le Gouvernement de Varna; ils remontent presque tous à une époque où le rapatriement d'un grand nombre de soldats licenciés ainsi que des réfugiés Turcs n'étaient pas de nature à faire régner dans l'est de la Bulgarie l'ordre le plus parfait, et où les limites entre les autorités de la Principauté et de la Roumélie ne s'étaient pas encore dessinées bien nettement.

Les autres griefs des pétitionnaires, par leur vague et leur généralité même, ne prouvent qu'une chose, c'est que la population Turque, mécontente de la situation que lui ont créé les derniers événements en la mettant sur un pied d'égalité avec les autres populations, s'est trouvée de plus en face d'une époque de transition où il était désirable mais non pas possible, d'avoir, malgré la meilleur volonté, un état de choses de nature à satisfaire immédiatement toutes les exigences.

Le Gouvernement Princier, constitué il y a à peine deux mois, s'est donné pour tâche de travailler avec zèle à faire régner partout l'ordre et à faire respecter par tous les droits et les intérêts de tous sans aucune distinction. Les mesures prises n'ont pas été sans produire jusqu'aujourd'hui l'effet qu'on en attendait, et si les autorités de la Roumélie Orientale voulaient s'entendre avec nos autorités pour la répression du brigandage sur les frontières des deux pays respectifs, le Gouvernement Princier n'hésite pas à assurer que l'ordre le plus parfait serait promptement et solidement établi dans cette région de la Principauté.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) M. BALABANOFF.

No. 161.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 14.)

(No. 178.)

My Lord, *Sophia, September* 27, 1879.

REFERRING to my despatch No. 173, dated on leave from Constantinople, present series, and to the telegram which it extended, regarding the alleged non-cession of Ichtiman and Kotel by the Bulgarian Government, I have the honour to report—

That immediately on my arrival here, three days since, I inquired into the matter, and was in answer officially informed by the Bulgarian Minister for Foreign Affairs that all Bulgarian officials, civil or military, of whatever degree, had been already recalled from the places above mentioned. But that, so far as the Ministry was aware, no steps had been as yet taken to fill up the blanks by the East Roumelian Government; nor, owing to the prohibition of inter-communication imposed by the Porte, has it been even possible to transmit to the said Government direct official information of the evacuation effected.

Some of the hamlets, pasture lands, and the like, originally comprised in the circumscriptions of Ichtiman and Kotel, have, by the new delimitation, been separated from those jurisdictions, and included in that of Bulgaria,—a circumstance which has given rise to some ambiguities of nomenclature, as also to some administrative difficulties in assigning them to their new centres.

Lastly, the Bulgarian Minister expressed his hope that, now the task of delimitation had been satisfactorily concluded, that of demarcation would follow before long, and

thereby an end be put to disputes continually arising between the peasants on either side from their practical ignorance of the lines traced by the Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 162.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 14.)

(No. 179. Confidential.)
Sophia, September 27, 1879.

My Lord,

IN a long and private audience granted me two days ago by His Highness the Prince the following points were touched on, which, as seeming of some importance, I have now the honour to report to your Lordship.

Firstly, His Highness informed me of the pains he had been at personally to examine and verify the many petitions presented to him by the Mahommedan subjects of the Principality. Of the complaints, those especially in regard of property injured or withheld, contained in the said petitions, he stated that he had, on careful investigation, found not a few to be substantially correct, and that he had caused justice to be rendered accordingly. He further stated that he had reason to believe that by this and analogous conduct he had to a great extent won the confidence and affection of his Mahommedan subjects.

I here note that His Highness' appreciations in this matter are perfectly correct, and that I have received information closely tallying with the above from trustworthy Mahommedans, especially in the country districts. I need hardly add that I warmly congratulated His Highness on the line and measures he had taken, and encouraged him to persevere in them.

Secondly, His Highness informed me of the necessity he had found of transferring the management and discipline of the gendarmes, or district police, from the superintendence of the Ministry of the Interior to that of the Ministry of War. For this he gave many and sufficient reasons, confirmed by recent instances, but added that the measure was only temporary. As temporary I approved it.

Thirdly, His Highness dwelt at length on the difficulties placed in the way of repressing brigandage, particularly in the east of the Principality, by the non-existence of free inter-communication between the Governments of Bulgaria and East Roumelia, in consequence of the embargo placed by the Porte. The Balkan range, which forms the limit between the two provinces, has always been under the Ottoman Administration, and yet in some parts is the favorite resort and refuge of brigands, who have now, taking advantage of circumstances too well known to require enumeration here, established themselves in full force on the southern, or East Roumelian, slope, whence they make frequent raids into the northern, or Bulgarian, territory. To put down these bands frequent and free communication by letter or telegram between the authorities on either side is absolutely necessary; and, so long as such communication is prohibited, brigandage will continue, but chiefly on the responsibility of the prohibitors.

Thus far, and, so far as I can learn, with entire correctness, the Prince. I beg respectfully here to add that it is a very serious matter, and one to which I have been compelled to allude in my two preceding despatches of the present series. I have spoken on the subject with my French and German colleagues (the Russian, Austrian, and Italian being actually absent on leave), and both have promised me to communicate on the subject with their respective Governments.

Fourthly, His Highness expressed his anxiety in view of the strongly liberal tendencies displayed by many leading Bulgarians, and of the popular excitement against the present Ministry, manifested in newspaper articles, public meetings, and petitions addressed to himself. But chiefly he seemed to apprehend the umbrage these things, if permitted, might give to certain protecting Courts; and lest he himself should be considered by those Courts weak and inefficient, if he did not use energetic measures to repress these popular, perhaps revolutionary, communistic, or Nihilistic tendencies.

Without much difficulty I obtained from His Highness the designation of the particular agencies through which these apprehensions had been instilled into him; they were the same that I anticipated. I then did my best to minimize His Highness' apprehensions; showed that the popular movements and manifestations in question were not only consistent with, but inseparable from, national and Constitutional vitality; that neither

Nihilism nor Socialism could possibly, at least during the present generation, take root in Bulgarian soil; that scares of this kind, though perhaps reasonable in such or such lands, were simply ridiculous in Bulgaria; and that the noblest applause His Highness could win from Europe, and from England in particular, would be by unshaken adherence to Constitutional principles and measures. Being also well informed—better, perhaps, than even His Highness—not only of the popular agitations in question, but of their true causes, I took the liberty of suggesting some special measures by which to give the movement a healthy direction, partly by the removal of certain evident abuses, and partly by the substitution of more profitable incentives. His Highness seemed to enter much into these ideas, and I had the satisfaction of seeing him take a calmer and more hopeful view of the position than he had appeared at first to entertain.

Other topics, but of less importance, or already sufficiently spoken of in my other despatches, were discussed. On this occasion, as on former ones, His Highness expressed his earnest desire of standing well with the British Court and Government, and conversed throughout with a frankness, and at the same time with a dignity of manner and clearness of statement, which showed him to have carefully studied and well understood the duties, no less than the dangers, of his position; and to be fully resolved alike to act up to the former, and to face or anticipate the latter.

In a short and accidental interview I had next day with His Highness in one of the rooms of the Palace, he expressed in brief the same sentiments, those of anxiety excepted, that he had manifested the day before.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 163.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 14.)

(No. 182.)
Sophia, September 28, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that having, in the course of my return hither from leave at Constantinople, visited the districts of Samakoff, Dubnitza, and, in part, Kustendil, I found tranquillity and a good understanding between the Mahommedan and the Christian population seemingly well established. Several mosques, five to my personal knowledge, that had been closed during the Russian occupation, have now been reopened, and I saw two others in process of restoration. The extraordinary Tribunals, on which I had the honour of reporting in my despatch No. 155, Political, for the reinstatement of Mahommedan refugees in their houses and properties, are stated on all hands to work excellently. The Christian refugees from Macedonia, in number several thousands, have also been sufficiently provided for. Lastly, the liberality of His Highness the Prince, who, on a recent tour through these very districts, distributed large alms with the utmost impartiality to the adherents of either creed, has not only done much material, but much moral good.

I would not venture to affirm that no instances of partiality in the Courts of Justice, of abusive language, and of other minor wrongs, such as the stronger are in all lands disposed to inflict on the weaker, never occur; but I do very positively affirm that in all weightier matters, and in the main of social and political life, throughout Southern Bulgaria, the Mahommedan subjects of this part of the Principality are on a fair and equal level of treatment with the Christian, which, considering the many and recent causes of mutual animosity, is a result greatly to the honour of the existing Princely administration. In East Roumelia I have too much reason to apprehend that matters are not generally so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 164.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 14.)

(No. 275.)
Philippopoli, September 30, 1879.

My Lord,

A DECREE has this day been signed by the Governor-General ordering the elections for the Provincial Assembly to take place on the 7th October, and convoking the Assembly itself for the 14th of that month.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 165.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 14.)

(No. 276.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, October 4, 1879.*

THE inclosed document is the translation of a Circular letter which has been drawn up by Aleko Pasha's Turkish Secretary and sent to the Mollah of Philippopoli to be signed by him and forwarded to the village Imams throughout the province. It refers to Monsignor Panareto's pastoral letter mentioned in my despatch No. of the ultimo, and calls upon the Turkish population to bury in oblivion their grievances against the Bulgarians, and to live at peace with them, accepting the present altered state of things as the will of Providence. The injunction on the Turks to live at peace with their Bulgarian neighbours is accompanied by an observation to the effect that Monsignor Panareto's pastoral has already produced a beneficial effect among the Bulgarians—an assertion which, I am sorry to state, is not borne out by facts. The frequency of outrages upon the Turkish refugees continues, unhappily, to be as great as ever.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 165.

Circular Letter drawn up by Aleko Pasha's Secretary for the Mollah to sign, and addressed to the village Imams.

(Translation.)
O Musulmans!

LE journal "La Maritza," du 17 Août dernier, a publié une lettre pastorale de la part de Sa Béatitude le Métropolitain de Philippopoli à l'adresse du peuple Bulgare, lettre dont vous voyez plus haut la traduction. Je reconnais de mon devoir d'appuyer les recommandations et les conseils inscrits dans cette lettre et qui sont conformes aux exigences de l'époque que nous traversons, de même qu'aux prescriptions de l'Evangile et du Coran.

Les changements survenus étaient sans doute prédestinés et ils ont eu lieu dans le siècle que nous traversons. L'amour de la patrie est au-dessus de ces changements, car, bien que nous avons trouvé, à notre retour dans notre patrie, nos maisons dévastées ou détruites, nous avons eu encore de la satisfaction en revoyant notre patrie. L'amour est un sentiment noble, qui nous vient de Dieu; nous devons, donc, faire tout notre possible pour conserver intact dans notre cœur ce sentiment et nous comforter humainement envers notre prochain, ainsi qu'il nous le prescrit. Nous ne devons pas attribuer à la nation les événements passés; notre religion nous prescrit d'y voir la main du destin, et nous devons nous en contenter. Nous devons oublier les maux antérieurs, et je suis sûr que vous les avez déjà oubliés. Les recommandations du Métropolitain ont déjà produit leurs effets sur nos compatriotes Bulgares, qui ont oublié les maux que je viens de signaler. Il faut bien qu'ils les oublient. Nous aurons, de cette manière, sauvegardé nos intérêts communs, qui ont pris naissance dans une cohabitation de cinq siècles, et nous aurons ainsi constitué une nouvelle association, établie sur la base de la fraternité. Cette association garantira l'avenir de chacun, de même que le bonheur en ce monde. C'est ainsi que nous satisfairons et Dieu et les Puissances. Nous ne devons pas prêter l'oreille aux insinuations des agitateurs; il faut que nos principes aient pour mobile notre bonheur, auquel nous n'arriverons qu'en agissant en bonne entente avec nos frères de la patrie commune. J'ajoute que, de même que dans toutes les nations il se trouve des gens ayant de bons principes et se rendant parfaitement compte de la politique de l'époque, il s'en trouve aussi d'autres incapables de distinguer le bien au mal. Ainsi il est de notre devoir de sermoner les personnes de cette dernière catégorie, et nous devons être nous-mêmes les promoteurs du châtiment de celles d'entre elles qui, en dépit de vos conseils, se seront permis de commettre des méfaits. Ceux qui pourraient avoir à se plaindre de qui que ce soit ne doivent pas songer à redresser par eux-mêmes le tort qu'ils auront subi; mais bien ils doivent s'adresser aux autorités, conformément aux lois. Enfin, mes enfants, nous devons, sans rancune, nous comforter humainement en ce monde, car le contraire donne lieu au repentir. Que Dieu nous aide à trouver le bon chemin et la bonne intelligence avec notre prochain.

No. 166.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 14.)

(No. 277.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, October 4, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith an extract from the local Greek organ published this day, and which, under the heading of "Le Baron de Ring à Sophia," purports to give the substance of a conversation held by the French Commissioner with the Bulgarian Metropolitan of Ochrida on the subject of the state of affairs of Macedonia, and more particularly on that of the Bulgarian statistics of the latter province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 166.

Extract from the "Philippoupolis" of October 4, 1879.

LE BARON DE RING À SOPHIA.—Notre correspondant particulier de Sophia nous écrit que M. le Baron du Ring arriva dans la capitale de la Bulgarie le 6 Septembre au soir. Le Corps Consulaire Français alla au devant du Baron et le pria de prendre pied au Consulat de France.

Le lendemain matin le Délégué Français fit une visite à Son Altesse le Prince de Bulgarie, avec qui il passa toute la journée. Le soir, après la promenade, il fut invité à un banquet gracieusement offert par le Prince. Le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, M. Balabanof, était du nombre des invités.

Le 8 du même mois le Baron eut un entretien avec le Métropolitain Bulgare d'Ochrida, un des principaux chefs de l'insurrection de la Macédoine, du moins à ce qu'on prétend. Comme ce qui a été dit dans cette entrevue est marqué d'un cachet d'originalité particulier, nous avons cru bien faire de lui donner l'hospitalité de nos colonnes.

Après l'échange des politesses d'usage, le Métropolitain dit au Baron qu'ayant appris qu'il a l'intention de visiter la Macédoine, il venait lui donner tous les renseignements dont il pourrait avoir besoin sur cette partie de la Turquie.

Le Baron le remercia cordialement de ses prévenances, et lui demanda s'il y avait longtemps qu'il avait quitté son diocèse.

"Je n'ai pas revu Ochrida," lui dit Monseigneur, "depuis le commencement de la guerre Turco-Serbe. Pour échapper aux poursuites des autorités Turques, j'ai dû me réfugier en Bulgarie, que je n'ai pas quittée depuis lors.

"Quelles sont les relations des Turcs avec les Chrétiens dans votre diocèse?

"La situation des Chrétiens de la Macédoine, les persécutions auxquelles ils sont en butte de la part des Turcs, sont connues de tout le monde. Il leur est impossible de sortir de chez eux sans se faire accompagner par un Albanais armé, qu'ils payent pour veiller à la sécurité de leur vie. Mais si les Bulgares ont beaucoup à souffrir de la part des Turcs, il ne sont pas moins opprimés par le clergé Grec, qui fait tout ce qu'il peut pour les obliger à reconnaître le Patriarcat de Phanar.

"Dans votre diocèse y a-t-il beaucoup de Chrétiens qui reconnaissent le Patriarcat Œcuménique?

"A l'exception de quelques Valaques, tous les autres reconnaissent l'Eglise Bulgare.

"Y a-t-il beaucoup de Valaques en Macédoine?

"Assez, mais les Bulgares sont incomparablement plus nombreux qu'eux.

"Quelle autre race habite cette province?

"Les Turcs; mais leur nombre est insignifiant à côté de celui des Chrétiens.

"Et des Grecs, il n'y en a donc pas en Macédoine?

"Si fait, mais la population de cette race est si infime qu'il ne vaut pas la peine d'en parler. C'est à peine si l'on compte un habitant Grec sur vingt.

"Permettez-moi, Monseigneur, de vous faire observer que des statistiques exactes sur la population de cette contrée font absolument défaut et qu'on ne doit pas se baser sur . . . . . .

"Je vous demande pardon, M. le Baron; l'Exarchat Bulgare est en état de présenter des statistiques sur la population Macédonienne d'une exactitude incontestable. Ces statisques ont été dressées par des personnes compétentes envoyées *ad hoc* dans les différentes parties de cette province.

"Je ne doute nullement de l'exactitude de vos statistiques, seulement je crois que vous donnez à la Macédoine des limites toutes autres que celles généralement reçues.

"Nous autres, en disant la Macédoine, nous entendons la Macédoine proprement dite, l'Epire et la Thessalie.

"Ainsi, dans toute l'étendue de cette contrée la population Grecque est en rapport d'un vingtième," interrogea le Baron, avec une impatience marquée.

"Je ne dis pas que ce chiffre soit absolument exact, mais je pense qu'il n'est pas très-éloigné de la vérité.

"Je visiterai la Macédoine, dit le Baron de Ring et, quoique ma tournée n'ait pas un caractère officiel, je tâcherai de débrouiller la vérité. Je crois superflu de vous dire, Monseigneur, que je ferai alors tout ce qui est en moi pour améliorer le sort des Chrétiens de ces contrées-là."

Après un séjour de quatre jours, le Baron de Ring quitta le 10 Septembre la capitale de Bulgarie.

No. 167.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 14.)

(No. 278.)
Philippopoli, October 4, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith the translation of a petition presented to Baron de Ring, as temporary Chairman of the European Commission, by thirty-six Mussulman inhabitants of the district of Philippopoli, complaining that it is impossible for them to return to their villages, since the latter have been utterly destroyed or rendered uninhabitable, and also that the refugees who have returned to their original homes are subjected to every kind of ill-treatment.

The petitioners pray that the Commission should take the necessary steps in order that they may be guaranteed against vexations on the part of their Christian neighbours, and that their share of the crops of the last two years may be surrendered to them.

The second inclosure in my present despatch is the copy of a letter addressed to Baron de Ring by M. Séon, Secretary of the French Delegation, conveying a précis of the statements made by two Mussulmans, who had suffered ill-usage at Tatar-Bazardjik.

The latter case is alluded to in my despatch No. 232 of the 8th September.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 167.

Petition.

(Translation.)

Au Président de la Commission Européenne en Roumélie Orientale:

LE fonctionnaire chargé de la distribution des rations aux réfugiés engageant les habitants du Caza de Philippopoli et les villageois à se rendre à leurs villages, nous avons l'honneur d'exposer à votre Excellence que cela nous est absolument impossible, car toutes nos maisons ont été démolies de fond en comble, et celles, bien rares, qui restent encore debout, sont dans un état tout-à-fait inhabitables. Outre cela, ceux de nos coreligionnaires qui se sont rendus à leurs villages sont tous les jours en butte à toute sorte de mauvais traitements. Ensuite aucune partie de nos récoltes de l'année passée et de celles de cette année-ci ne nous est rendue. Vu cet état de choses l'on se convaincra facilement de l'impossibilité où nous nous trouvons de nous rendre dans nos villages.

Nous prions donc l'honorable Commission de faire prendre les mesures nécessaires afin qu'avant tout l'on nous garantisse, si nous nous rendons dans nos villages, contre les vexations de nos voisins Chrétiens, et que l'on nous donne en même temps une partie du produit de nos récoltes des deux dernières années.

Dans ces conditions nous serions en état de retourner dans nos foyers.

Les habitants Musulmans de Département de Philippopoli.

(Suivent 36 cachets.)

Philippopoli, le $\frac{25 \text{ Août}}{6 \text{ Septembre}}$, 1879.

Inclosure 2 in No. 167.

M. Séon to Baron de Ring.

Philippopoli, le 8 Septembre, 1879.

M. le Ministre,

DEUX Musulmans, les nommés Hadji Suleiman et Ibrahim Oglou Mehmed, réfugiés de Tatar-Bazardjik, rentrés depuis peu dans leurs foyers, ont été obligés de les quitter de nouveau, ne pouvant plus résister à la persécution dont ils sont l'objet de la part de leurs compatriotes Bulgares. Ces pauvres gens que je viens de voir, et que j'ai interrogés, m'ont fait le récit de leurs derniers malheurs que je m'empresse de communiquer *in extenso* à votre Excellence.

Après quelques mots sur les vexations en général auxquelles les Musulmans sont en butte en Roumélie Orientale, Hadji Suleiman et Mehmed continuèrent ainsi:—

"Il y a vingt-deux jours que nous sommes arrivés à Tatar-Bazardjik, où nous trouvâmes notre maison occupée par des Bulgares, lesquels continuèrent à y rester en même temps que nous. Craignant de les fâcher nous ne fîmes aucune démarche pour les en faire sortir. Quelques Bulgares couchaient dans la cour extérieur de notre maison, et une femme Bulgare dans celle où nous étions avec nos femmes. Le sixième jour de notre arrivée à Bazardjik, à minuit, cinq ou six individus que nous crûmes reconnaître pour des soldats, et qui étaient pour la plupart armés de fusils, envahirent la cour où nous couchions, et commencèrent à nous frapper à coup de crosses et à coups de baïonnettes (Mehmed reçut une blessure au bras d'un coup de baïonnette, et la femme de Suleiman plusieurs coups de sabre au bras); aux cris de douleur et de désespoir que nous poussâmes, en leur demandant pour quelle raison ils nous frappaient, ces individus se sauvèrent en emportant un matelas. Le lendemain matin, après avoir averti les autorités locales de ce qui nous était arrivé pendant la nuit, nous partîmes pour Philippopoli, où nous sommes depuis seize jours.

"Nous n'avons aucun moyen d'existence. Nous avons peur; nous craignons que les Bulgares ne nous massacrent. En conséquence nous supplions qu'on nous envoie à Andrinople, où nous avons quelques parents. Nous reviendrons plus tard en Roumélie Orientale, car nous y avons des propriétés, quand nous saurons qu'on y est sûr de sa vie."

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) SÉON.

No. 168.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 14.)

(No. 279.)
Philippopoli, October 4, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 259 of the 20th ultimo, I beg to inform your Lordship that the editor of the "Philippoupolis" is being prosecuted by the Local Government for the article inclosed in the despatch above referred to; and I have now the honour to transmit an article published by that organ this morning, in which the editor justifies the course which he took in calling attention to the deplorable condition of the province, and promises to prove in detail the correctness of the statements made in the article for which he is being prosecuted.

The action of the Local Government in this matter is in strong contrast with the toleration it extends towards the "Maritza," the principal Bulgarian organ, which persistently incites its readers to hatred of the Greeks and Turks, and thus powerfully contributes towards the proved misgovernment of this province.

As a specimen of the virulence of the latter journal, I have the honour to inclose one of its articles, published on the 6th of last month, in which the meaning of the word "Greek" is most insultingly reproduced from certain French dictionaries.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 168.

Extract from the "Philippoupolis" of October 4, 1879.

NOTRE PROCÈS.—Mardi passé, vers les onze heures et demie du matin, nous eûmes la visite d'un Secrétaire du Juge d'Instruction accompagné d'un gendarme. Ces messieurs firent comprendre à M. Koumarianos, rédacteur du "Philippoupolis," qu'ils avaient l'ordre de l'inviter à les suivre au konak. Bien que cette invitation, faite à brûle pourpoint, lui ait paru fort étrange, notre rédacteur ne laissa pas que de s'y prêter. Ainsi bientôt après, il se trouva en présence du Juge d'Instruction de Première Instance qui, suivant les ordres qu'il avait sans doute préalablement reçus de haut lieu, lui fit les questions suivantes:—

"Etes-vous bien le rédacteur responsable du journal 'Philippoupolis?'"

"Oui, Monsieur, je le suis, en l'absence de son Directeur-Gérant responsable."

"Quel est l'auteur, de l'article paru, en Grec d'abord, dans le No. 61 de votre journal et en Français ensuite, dans le numéro suivant?"

"C'est moi."

"En écrivant cet article, connaissiez-vous la loi sur la presse du Statut Organique?"

"Oui, Monsieur, je la connaissais parfaitement bien."

"C'est bon; je n'ai plus rien à vous demander. Signez, s'il vous plaît."

Comme la pièce qui lui fut présentée était rédigée en langue Grecque, M. Koumarianos y apposa sa signature sans aucune difficulté.

Le Juge d'Instruction procéda à cet interrogatoire préliminaire d'après l'ordre formel de son Excellence Aléko Pacha. Le prévenu est accusé d'inciter, dans l'article en question, la mésintelligence entre les administrateurs et les administrés, et d'y provoquer le mépris des peuples de l'Empire pour le Gouvernement de la Roumélie Orientale.

Nous ne savons pas si notre article a pu occasionner tout ce dont nous accuse l'autorité supérieure de la province, mais ce que nous sommes en état de bien savoir c'est que ce sont les faits, et non nos écrits, qui peuvent malheureusement porter préjudice au prestige du Gouvernement Rouméliote.

Tant qu'on ne visera pas aux moyens de remédier à la situation déplorable de la province, que les stipulations du Statut Organique ne seront pas respectées, que les droits des citoyens seront foulés aux pieds, qu'on cherchera à Bulgariser les habitants Roumélioles, que les Grecs seront le plastron des insultes des Bulgares, et que les Turcs auront à souffrir mille persécutions de leur part, nous croirons de notre devoir le plus sacré d'en instruire le public, fidèlement et sans parti pris. Nous demandons l'opinion qu'on aura de nous, si, au lieu d'éclairer nos lecteurs sur la véritable situation de la province, nous cherchions à les dérouter, en la représentant sous de fausses couleurs et en prodiguant notre encens au Gouvernement établi.

Nous sommes publicistes, et en cette qualité nous nous faisons l'écho des événements qui se passent en la province, nous relatons les faits divers et les différentes scènes qui y ont lieu, et nous prenons la liberté d'y porter franchement notre jugement, tout en nous conformant aux lois. Le Statut Organique ne dit-il pas que la liberté de la presse est consacrée et que chaque citoyen a le droit de manifester ses opinions de vive voix, par écrit et par la voie de la presse? Mais le Gouvernement nous intente aujourd'hui un procès, parce qu'il croit que nous abusons de cette liberté, en nous permettant de publier des faits imaginaires, qu'il ne s'est jamais cependant donné la peine de démentir.

A nous maintenant de prouver détails par détails, *coram judice*, tout ce que nous avançons dans l'article de fond du No. 61 de notre journal. Nous tâcherons de satisfaire nos Juges, en leur démontrant clairement et nettement que nous ne nous sommes nullement écartés de la loi qui régit la liberté de la presse dans le pays.

Inclosure 2 in No. 168.

Extract from the "Maritza" of September 6, 1879.

Plovdiv, le $\frac{25 \text{ Août}}{6 \text{ Septembre}}$, 1879.

LE "Philippoupolis" continue d'échapper par la tangente aux questions catégoriques que nous lui avons mainte fois posées et que nous lui poserons aujourd'hui encore:—

1. N'est-il pas—lui, "Philippoupolis"—l'organe gagé et assermenté du Syllogue Grec de Constantinople, qui est un comité anti-Turc?

2. Les rêveurs dont l'organe Pan-Hellène exprime si librement les aspirations ne convoitent-ils pas l'héritage de l'Empire des Sultans, c'est-à-dire la Thrace avec Constantinople, les côtés de l'Anatolie, les Iles de l'Archipel, &c.

3. Les Grecs ne se bercent-ils pas du fol espoir de dominer les nationalités qui les entourent, de rétablir le Bas-Empire, de transformer les mosquées de Stamboul en églises? N'y a-t-il pas une masse de Grecs qui ne font pas baptiser leur progéniture, convaincus qu'il leur sera donné de la plonger un jour dans les fonts baptismaux de Ste. Sophie?

Nous avons perdu tout espoir de voir le "Philippoupolis" aborder ces thèmes brulants. Mis au pied du mur, le journal Grec appelle aujourd'hui à son secours MM. Waddington, Gambetta, et tous les diplomates Européens, lesquels, dit-il, ne peuvent pas censément s'amuser à protéger des traîtres, des voleurs, des fourbes et des intrigants comme les Grecs.

Il ne s'agit guère de cela! Ce dont nous nous plaignons, c'est que les Grecs s'autorisent de la protection qui leur est aujourd'hui généreusement accordée par l'Europe pour se proclamer le premier peuple du monde, une race douée d'innombrables vertus, et pour essayer de dominer, d'opprimer, et de dépouiller sans coup férir leurs voisins Turcs, Bulgares, Albanais, &c.

"That is the question." Nous n'accusons ni la France, ni se diplomates, ni personne. Nous accusons les Grecs.

Maintenant est-ce notre faute à nous si MM. Waddington, Gambetta, &c., confondent les Grecs d'aujourd'hui, qu'ils ne connaissent point et dont ils n'ont pas eu à souffrir, avec les Grecs de l'antiquité?

Au reste on n'a jamais démontré que, dans la question Hellénique, ces hommes d'Etat Français aient agi par pure sympathie pour les Grecs et non pas par intérêt politique. Est-ce par sympathie pour les Mussulmans, par exemple, qu'en 1854 la France a protégé les Turcs contre les Russes?

"Le nom Grec est si haut placé, s'écrie modestement le 'Philippoupolis,' que, lors même que tous les Bulgares se concerteraient pour rédiger chacun une 'Maritza' tous les jours, ils ne sauraient porter atteinte à l'estime et à la considération dont ce nom jouit dans l'esprit du monde civilisé. Les cris impuissants de ces homuncules ne pourront jamais arriver jusqu'aux régions élevées où plane fièrement l'Hellénisme."

"L'estime et la considération dont ce nom jouit dans l'esprit du monde civilisé!" C'est à en faire une chanson. Ces pauvres scribes du "Philippoupolis" n'ont donc jamais consulté un dictionnaire Français? Nous le ferons pour eux:

Au mot Grec, p. 69, Bescherelle dit: "Etre Grec en quelque chose," signifie: y être fort habile, trop traitable, pas traitable, rusé, fripon. Exemple: Ne traitez point avec les gens d'un caractère Grec, c'est-à-dire avec un homme cité par son avarice, ou sa mauvaise foi.

De son côté, M. Bénard, Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur, comme M. Bescherelle, du reste, dit dans son "Dictionnaire Classique Universel:" "Grec signifie fourbe, escroc, homme de mauvaise foi, surtout au jeu."

Voilà l'estime et la considération dont le nom Grec jouit dans l'esprit du monde civilisé. Nous ne voulons point dire qu'il n'y ait pas de Grecs honnêtes; nous en connaissons personnellement un grand nombre. Mais que le "Philippoupolis" s'en prenne aux auteurs Français d'avoir donné ce déplorable vernis à un vocable dont on cherche charitablement aujourd'hui à changer la signification populaire. Franchement, l'organe Syllogue de Péra ne peut pas accuser le "Pan-Bulgarisme" d'avoir inspiré tous les dictionnaires Français, y compris celui de M. Littré, qui s'étend encore plus sur la matière. Au demeurant, les Grecs avaient leur réputation faite avant l'invention des dictionnaires et surtout de ce mot absurde, inepte de "Pan-Bulgarisme."

Nous nous arrêterons un peu moins sur une phrase kilométrique dans laquelle le "Philippoupolis" s'efforce de démontrer que quelques jouvenceaux Phanariotes font marcher, à eux seuls, les affaires de ce pays. Cette phrase, la voici:

"Ainsi parce que deux ou trois fonctionnaires Grecs, qui ont été priés de venir prêter leur concours intelligent à l'organisation du pays, dessiller les yeux aux Bulgares, qui, en matière d'Administration, font preuve de la plus crasse ignorance, parce que, disons-nous, quelques fonctionnaires seraient accusés de divulguer les secrets du Gouvernement, les Pan-Bulgares se croient en droit de prendre pour plastron de leurs lâches insultes, de leurs grossières injures, non-seulement la nation Grecque, mais encore la France, en la personne de Waddington, de Gambetta, et d'autres personnages haut placés dont la présence dans ce pays devrait leur inspirer le plus profond respect.

"Qui ont été priés de prêter leur concours intelligent à l'organisation du pays, à dessiller les yeux aux Bulgares," &c., est tout un poème, toute une épopée Grecque.

Ainsi donc, c'est affirmatif: ces jouvenceaux Phanariotes ou Pérotes sont les seules

acquisitions précieuses que la province ait faites. Nous avions toujours soupçon que le "Philippoupolis" connaissait ces jeunes Grecs de très-près. Quant aux spécialistes Européens, aux militaires, aux financiers, aux hommes de lettres, &c., qui travaillent aujourd'hui dans tous nos Départements, ils sontin capables, constituent une charge pour le budget, et ne sauront jamais dessiller les yeux aux Bulgares. Disons tout: d'après l'organe du Pan-Hellénisme, ces spécialistes doivent leurs places au favoritisme, au népotisme, à des parentés influentes, aux femmes!

Allons! les augures du "Philippoupolis," qui, en leur qualité de Grecs, connaissant le dessous des cartes, doivent bien rire entre eux des sottises qu'on leur fait imprimer.

No. 169.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 14.)

(No. 280. Secret.)
Philippopoli, October 4, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my telegram No. 84 (despatch No. 274) of the 30th ultimo, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith the translation of a letter purporting to be addressed by the National (Eagle) Committee of Philippopoli on the 27th ultimo to the Sub-Committee of Tchirpan in this province.

The document, as well as the envelope in which it was inclosed, bears a seal purporting to be that of the National Committee, and, so far as I am able to judge at present, I believe the document to be genuine.

I have been informed that it belongs to a series of circulars to the same effect, addressed on the same date to all the principal towns in Eastern Roumelia, and that the letter to Tchirpan was sealed in duplicate through the instrumentality of the Secretary of the Committee.

Apart from other reasons, it acquires a character of authenticity from the fact that Tchirpan is in reality the district in which Turks are not subjected to the crimes of murder, arson, and robbery, so strongly advocated by the Committee at the alleged instigation of the Slavonic Committee of Moscow.

Having received no reply to the telegram above mentioned, I shall retain the original letter until I receive instructions from your Lordship as to its disposal.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 169.

Circular Letter to the Sub-Committee of Tchirpan from the Eagle Society.

(Translation.)
Philippopoli, September 15, 1879.

Gentlemen,

AT Tchirpan.

In reply to your letter of the 2nd instant, from which we perceive that you say that you have not been able to send your accounts, we beg you to send them immediately, because we are going to balance our accounts.

The day before yesterday a letter arrived from the Moscow Committee, which writes that we must work more actively as there is a change in politics, and it is necessary that our plans should be carried out as quickly as possible.

In consequence of that letter we tell (direct) you that you must, without fail, work quickly.

With regret we tell you that, in your district, we do not hear of Turks being killed, of their villages being burnt, nor of their being robbed. Write to us what is the reason of this. We suspect that the reason is the letter of the Metropolitan, Panaretos, or some pressure exercised on the country by the Government. You are well aware that the Government is entirely ours, and that you have nothing to fear from it; also that the letters which were sent you from here were imposed upon Panaretos, in pursuance of a deceptive policy towards Europe, and more especially towards that accursed England. It is necessary to assure the people of this (these words).

Consequently we write to you by our present (letter), in order that, as soon as you receive it, you should send your men to persuade the people to begin work again as they worked before, taking care that we should not incur the opprobrium of Europe.

Do you not hear what takes place in our caza? They are killing, burning, robbing.

Tell this also to the people, in order that they may see our example, because we observe with regret great indifference among you.

You know well that it is only thus our object can be accomplished, and that we can become free and united with Bulgaria.

(The seal of the Orel Committee.)

No. 170.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 14.)

(No. 281.)
Philippopoli, October 4, 1879.

My Lord,

WHILE the inclosed Article in the "Maritza" advocates again the retention of a large force of militia for the purpose of defending the frontiers of this province against Bashi-Bazouks, the Bulgarian portion of that organ animadverts in strong terms on the continued disorderly condition of the militia, and expresses a hope that the Provincial Assembly will devise measures for the establishment of order in its ranks.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 171.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 14.)

(No. 282.)
Philippopoli, October 4, 1879.

My Lord,

THE Governor-General left Philippopoli on the 30th ultimo for Tatar-Bazardjik on a tour of inspection in this province, accompanied by Dr. Vulcovitch, Director of Public Works, and a staff of officials exclusively Bulgarian.

His Excellency will visit Carlova, Kezanlik, Eski-Zaghra, Slivno, Karnabad, Aïdos, Bourgas, and other towns, returning to Philippopoli on the 10th instant.

The Bulgarians of Tatar-Bazardjik made a great demonstration of welcome; but I have reason to believe that the statement made in the inclosed extract from the "Maritza" is not correct as regards the satisfaction which the Turkish inhabitants are alleged to have expressed.

On the contrary, they made many complaints, and exposed their grievances in an address of which I am promised a copy.

The shop of a Turk was destroyed by fire on the night of his Excellency's arrival at Tatar-Bazardjik.

The Greeks stated in an address, which they likewise presented, that they were ready to fulfil their duty as citizens, provided the rights secured to them by the Organic Statute obtained recognition.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 172.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 14.)

(No. 283.)
Philippopoli, October 4, 1879.

My Lord,

I BEG to inclose copies of two statements made to me by Turks of the villages of Demirdjiler and Tirfil, relating to outrages suffered by them at the hands of the Bulgarians.

With regard to the first of these statements, I may mention that Mr. Calvert has, since it was made, seen the woman who was so cruelly tortured, and that he reports to me that her body is covered with unhealed burns.

In regard to the second case, I have myself this day seen two of the victims, whose injuries have likewise been certified by a local medical man, with a view to proceedings being taken against their assailants.

Mollah Mehmet, of Demirdjiler, has also reported to me that the son of the Imam of the neighbouring village of Mouranly was murdered by Bulgarians a few days ago.

I have further the honour to inclose a translation of a petition which has been addressed to me by the representatives of twenty-two Turkish villages in the district of Carlova, complaining of their condition and treatment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 172.

Statement of Mollah Mehmet, of Demirdjiler.

MOLLAH MEHMET, of Demirdjiler (Carlova district), states that nine days ago, about midnight, twelve or fifteen Bulgarians broke into three of the "colibas" (huts) inhabited by the Turkish refugees of that village. In the "coliba" occupied by Mollah Mehmet and his two brothers, they tortured three of the inmates to extort money. They placed a red hot iron tripod round the neck of his brother, Ishmail Tshaoush, slashed the arms from the wrist to the shoulders of his second brother, Hassan, and forced the wife of the latter, after stripping her of her clothes, to sit down on some hot embers. The victims of this outrage made a loud outcry, but their neighbours were prevented from coming to the rescue, as the Bulgars placed sentries to watch at the doors of the other Turkish huts, five in number.

During this outrage, Mollah Mehmet was forced to lie hidden under a heap of clothing, and forbidden to look out under pain of death. Early in the following morning he ran away to Hissar, where he remained four days and then came on here.

Demirdjiler is seven hours (about twenty-one miles) from Philippopoli.

Philippopoli, September 29, 1879.

Inclosure 2 in No. 172.

Statement of Eminoglou Hashim.

ON Wednesday night (the 1st October), shortly after midnight, seven or eight Bulgarians of Douvandjelès entered the straw hut inhabited by my uncle, Hadji Hafouz, in the village of Tirfil, three hours from Philoppopoli. I happened to be staying with my uncle, as his guest. The Bulgarians forced open the door with their bayonets. They began by demanding money, and this not being given, they fell upon us with the butt ends of their rifles. They beat my uncle so severely, that he is now in a dying state. The other members of the household, namely, Hadji Hafouz, son, Dourmoush, and his daughter-in-law, are also laid up with their injuries. After beating us, the Bulgarians bound us and proceeded to search for money. They found 4,500 piastres (about 35*l.*) tied up in the waistband of my cousin's wife. This they took, as likewise a number of articles of clothing.

The day previous, the Bulgarians of Dovvandjelès fired upon Ismail, son of Alioglou Husseïn, while he was coming into the town in his father's cart, but they did not hit him.

Philippopoli, October 4, 1879.

Inclosure 3 in No. 172.

Petition from Villagers of Ghiopson.

(Traduction.)

A son Excellence M. le Consul de Sa Majesté Britannique à Philippopoli.

PERMETTEZ aux Soussignés, représentants de vingt-deux villages Musulmans du district de Ghiopson, de venir exposer à votre Excellence ce qui suit :

Envoyés par la Commission du Rapatriement des Réfugiés de Philippopoli dans leurs villages respectifs, ils n'ont pu y trouver ni maisons, ni vivres, ni de quoi travailler, attendu que leurs concitoyens Bulgares refusent d'évacuer leurs maisons, qu'ils refusent à leur donner quoi que ce soit sur les produits des deux dernières années qu'ils ont récoltés sur

leurs champs, et qu'ils ne veulent point leur livrer leurs terres pour qu'ils puissent se mettre à leurs travaux champêtres.

Dans cette situation il ne leur reste qu'à recourir à votre Excellence dans le but de la supplier de daigner prendre telles mesures que leur malheureux état lui dicte, en vue de les sauver d'une position des plus déplorables, de même que pour leur faire donner des garanties contre les mauvais traitements et les vexations sans nombre qu'ils endurent de la part des Bulgares.

(Suivent les cachets des Représentants de vingt-deux villages du district de Ghiopson (Carlova).)

No. 173.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 14.)

(No. 856. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 3, 1879.

I ACCIDENTALLY to-day met General Strecker, Commander-in-chief of the militia of Eastern Roumelia, and had a few minutes' conversation with him as he was waiting to see Safvet Pasha.

He begged me to believe that affairs in Eastern Roumelia were not so bad as they were represented to be. He had great difficulties to contend with, but one of the greatest was the tendency of foreign authorities on the spot to magnify events of minor importance. He could assure me, having just made a tour of inspection from Philippopoli to Bourgas, that the province was quieting down. He hoped shortly to complete the reduction of the militia to the minimum permitted by the Organic Law. When this was done he proposed to disarm the Gymnastic Societies, and he really thought that if, in the interval, Eastern Roumelia could only escape being written and talked about, it would in a few months cease to be a source of anxiety to the Porte and the European Powers.

The General gave a bad account of the Governor-General, whom he described as weak, cowardly, and generally incompetent, but he recognized the necessity of getting on with him for the present as best he could.

General Strecker was at one time talked of himself as a candidate for the office of Governor-General; and it is not at all impossible, nor, I should say, undesirable, that he still harbours the hope that he may succeed to the post some day if he ingratiates himself with the Porte, and succeeds in keeping the Eastern Roumelians quiet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 174.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 14.)

(No. 858.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 3, 1879.

IN an audience to which the Sultan invited me on the 2nd instant, His Majesty did me the honour to inform me that he had instituted two Commissions to examine the financial projects of Zuhdi Pasha, Minister of Finance.

The subjects to be considered are a revised Budget and a scheme for the settlement of the debt. His Majesty said that he had great hopes that the last was of a nature to commend itself to foreign acceptance. It involved an equalization of expenditure and receipts, with the payment out of the Budget of 1 per cent., or perhaps 1½ per cent., to bondholders, and His Majesty observed that if this could be obtained he presumed that confidence would be regained, and that Turkey would no longer be excluded from the money markets of Europe.

I replied that if the guarantees were sufficient to convince the public that a continual payment of even so small an interest was secured to them, there could be very little doubt that the public purse strings might partially be loosened. I ventured, however, to say that, if new loans were made in order to pay the interest promised on the old loan, the total ruin of the Empire must shortly be achieved.

His Majesty said that he was quite determined that all interest to be paid in future should be paid out of the Budget, and he spoke in a manner which showed that he clearly

understood that the policy of making new loans to pay old ones was what had led to the present difficulties, and would produce worse if resumed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 175.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 14.)

(No. 859.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October* 4, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a *note verbale* which I have addressed to-day to the Porte, in consequence of receiving by telegraph a repetition of Mr. Consul-General Green's telegram to your Lordship of yesterday's date, in which he states that Mr. Vice-Consul St. John reports that he cannot leave his house at Prisrend without imminent personal risk.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure in No. 175.

Note Verbale.

Therapia, October 4, 1879.

THE British Embassy has the honour to inform the Sublime Porte that a telegram has been received to-day from the English Consul at Scutari, giving the news that the English Vice-Consul at Prisrend has been requested by the Governor to keep within doors, and that though he does venture out occasionally, it is at imminent personal risk.

The Sublime Porte will recognize the danger of allowing such a state of affairs to exist.

It is represented to the Embassy that six battalions would be quite sufficient to render the district secure; but, however this may be, the Embassy requests the Sublime Porte to take measures which shall enable the Vice-Consul to cease to be a sort of prisoner in his own house, whereby his utility is completely neutralized.

No. 176.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 14.)

(No. 860.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October* 4, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a despatch No. 21 of the 1st October, from Mr. Brophy, Vice-Consul at Varna, respecting a proposed emigration of Mussulmans from Bulgaria, and of the answer, dated to-day, which I have made to it.

I informed Safvet Pasha this morning of the despatch which I had received, and his Highness requested me urgently to endeavour to dissuade the Mussulmans from leaving Bulgaria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure 1 in No. 176.

Acting Vice-Consul Brophy to Mr. Malet.

Varna, October 1, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that lately several deputations of Turks from surrounding districts, after having deposed to various grievances from which they have been recently suffering, one of which is the, according to them, shortly to be enforced, military service, have with great insistance and perseverance intreated to be informed upon the following points, premising, firstly, that they say that owing to the continued systematic persecution to which they are being subjected, without any redress being obtainable from

the local authorities, they are convinced that the settled, though unavowed, purpose of the Government is to render their living in the Principality impossible; and that, therefore, even those that formerly intended to stop in the country, fulfilling all the conditions of Bulgarian citizenship, will be obliged to quit the country, viz.:—

1. Whether it was not stipulated by the Powers Signatory of the Treaty of Berlin that two years, or some other fixed period, from the signing of the Treaty, should be granted to the Mussulmans residing in the Principality (during which time they should not be liable to military service) to sell and otherwise dispose of their properties and interests within its limits, in case they elected not to stop, and in order that they might not, as now, have to undergo a virtually forced expropriation, even when, as by exception, the local authorities did not put obstacles in the way of their realizing their irremoveable property; and, furthermore, if such a stipulation was made, whether the Signatory Powers were decided to uphold it or withdraw from it.

2. Whether, when migrating by land, they would have the right to demand a sufficient escort from the authorities, to protect them from being attacked on the road, as far as the next Eastern Roumelian administrative centre, and whether these also adequate measures for the security of their further progress would be taken.

3. Whether it would be safe and advisable for them to settle themselves down in Eastern Roumelia, and, if not, whither they might then direct their steps. (Most of the intending refugees express unwillingness and dread of emigrating to Asia, which appears to them far off and teeming with dangers of starvation, whereas they know personally, or by report, about most of the European territory.)

4. Whether the Sublime Porte would take efficacious measures to see them installed in some suitable spot, without their having to exhaust first their now scanty means of subsistence, and then, falling paupers, die slowly of starvation.

To the third question I, for my part, generally replied by advising them not to think of establishing themselves in Eastern Roumelia under existing circumstances.

As regards the fourth question, it is not necessary to point out that the Porte would do well to be prepared for a further great influx of more or less destitute Mussulmans, which, unless proper steps are taken, will enormously increase the poverty and non-recuperative power of the Empire.

The Turkish villagers themselves remark that they are not, like the Circassians, independent of the proper means of gaining their livelihood by agriculture, the latter race having no sooner a shelter over their heads than they make their more industrious neighbours the prey of their plundering habits.

Earnestly requesting a speedy and decisive reply, either way, to the foregoing, which may be the saving of an infinite number of innocent lives, I have, &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. G. BROPHY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 176.

Mr. Malet to Acting Vice-Consul Brophy.

Therapia, October 4, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE received and considered with attention your despatch of the 1st instant, informing me that several deputations of Turks from the districts surrounding Varna have requested you to obtain answers from the Embassy to certain questions which you enumerate.

In answer to the first question, I will quote the only Article in the Treaty of Berlin which bears upon the question of the property of Mussulmans:—

"Article XII. Mussulman proprietors or others who may take up their abode outside the Principality can continue to hold there their real property by farming it out or having it administered by their parties.

"A Turco-Bulgarian Commission shall be appointed to settle, within a period of two years, all questions relative to the mode of alienation, working, or use on the account of the Sublime Porte of property belonging to the State and religious foundations (Vakoufs), as well as of the questions regarding the interests of private persons engaged therein."

You will perceive that these words do not affect the position of the persons who have addressed themselves to you, as they are at present resident in Bulgaria.

2. They ask whether they have a right to demand a sufficient escort to protect them as far as the nearest Eastern Roumelian post. It is clear that the granting of an escort

lies within the discretion of the Bulgarian authorities as long as the emigrants are within the Principality. I cannot say beforehand that it would be granted, and I certainly cannot assure the applicants that they would be protected from molestation in traversing Southern Roumelia.

3. I cannot recommend them to entertain the idea of settling down in Eastern Roumelia. The emigrants who have returned to that province have met with anything but an encouraging reception, and a further influx of Mussulmans from Bulgaria might lead to serious disturbance.

Lastly, I regret to say that the Porte, however much it wishes it, could not undertake to find for these people suitable lands for occupation, or hold out hopes that a money grant would be made to save them from misery and starvation.

You will, under these circumstances, do your best to dissuade the applicants from leaving Bulgaria. If they do leave they will be exposed to encounter far greater misfortunes than those to which they are at present exposed—misfortunes from which the Turkish Government will be powerless to save them and which will take the form of bodily privation and misery, whereas their ills are at present to a great extent confined to apprehension and grievances of a nature that can be borne.

Bulgaria is now represented by an Agent at Constantinople, and he will be urged by Safvet Pasha, to whom I have spoken on the subject, to induce his Government to compel the Bulgarian authorities to see that the Mussulmans in Bulgaria are properly and fairly treated.

I need not tell you that we do not relax our efforts in the same direction. As the Mussulmans have borne so much, ask them to bear a little more in hopes of better days, and assure them that if they emigrate to Turkey they may meet a fate in comparison with which their present one is light.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 177.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 14.)

(No. 861.)
Therapia, October 4, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Sir Henry Layard's despatch to your Lordship No. 781 of the 1st ultimo, inclosing an extract from a Report received by the Porte from the Vali of Janina on the subject of brigandage in Epirus, I have the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Blakeney, commenting upon the Report in question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure 1 in No. 177.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Sir A. H. Layard.

Preveza, September 27, 1879.

Sir,

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch of the 4th instant, inclosing, for any observations I may have to make upon it, an extract from a Report from the Vali of Janina, on the subject of brigandage in Epirus, I have the honour to offer the following remarks:—

1. That in my opinion brigandage, except, perhaps, along the border, has little or no political signification.

2. That brigandage is almost exclusively composed of natives, Christian peasants, Arvanto Vlachs, and deserters from the army and police, who take advantage of the undecided state of affairs, and more especially of the apathy and incompetency of some of the authorities, to carry destruction wherever they go.

3. That brigands are to be found all over Epirus, especially in the districts of Conitza, Zagori, and Metzono, which appear to be entirely at their mercy, and where they may be counted by the hundred.

4. That the pursuit of brigands, except in rare instances, by the authorities leaves much to be desired, and consequently little or no praise is due to them for the "zèle et dévouement" said to be employed by them in the matter.

5. That this state of things, instead of improving, is, on the contrary, becoming worse every day, and public security in the rural districts of Epirus is, I am sorry to say, fast fading away.

Lastly, as they refer to the same subject, I beg to inclose copies and translations of M. Kypriotis' letter of the 16th and of his despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 177.

M. Kypriotis to Vice-Consul Blakeney.

Sir,
Janina, September 17, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the prisoner Alexos Christodoulos, alluded to in my previous despatch, has been set free, having paid £ T. 425. He returned to his village Saturday last, accompanied by twenty-five brigands, who, after discharging their guns in the air, departed unmolested.

(Signed) B. KYPRIOTIS.

Inclosure 3 in No. 177.

M. Kypriotis to Vice-Consul Blakeney.

Sir,
Janina, September 18, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you that Tuesday last a band of brigands made a descent upon the village of Bultze, Zagori, and after plundering several houses, in one of which they also robbed £ T. 300, after burning the mistress of the house with oil, they departed unmolested.

Letters have been sent by brigands to the inhabitants of several villages of Zagori, demanding money, in default of which the villages are to be destroyed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) B. KYPRIOTIS.

No. 178.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 14.)

(No. 862.)
Therapia, October 5, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose the translation of a petition which has been presented at the British Vice-Consulate at Varna, setting forth the ill-treatment to which the Turkish population of Bulgaria is exposed at the hands of their Christian neighbours. This translation, which Mr. Brophy had not time to complete, has been made from the Turkish original by the student interpreters, and I am informed it was accurately done by them almost without assistance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure in No. 178.

Translation of Document in Turkish presented at the British Vice-Consulate, Varna, September 21, 1879.

ON the 21st July of the present year 1295, according to the old style, at about 10 o'clock, twelve Bulgarians, two of whom were dressed as Bulgarian zaptiehs, came to the village of Tchataller, situated in the Caza of Baltchik, and calling out the Kiahia of the village on the plea of searching for arms, ordered that the inhabitants should be assembled together, and after collecting the people of the village by this means, they crowded them all into the mosque. Having placed eight persons as sentinels at the door, the remaining four took Hassan, of the village of Yasdikjiler, who happened to be among the inhabitants,

and after binding his arms behind his back, brought him to his house, and in order to take his money from him, poured some petroleum over his chest, and, in addition, put on him a cloth dipped in petroleum, and began to set it alight. Hassan, in his agony, although he was bound, tried to tear off with his hands a piece of the blazing cloth which was on his chest from the part that was burning. Thereupon they poured petroleum over his hands also, and setting them alight; they tortured the wretched man to such a pitch that he could no longer bear the brutal treatment, so he told them where his money was, whereupon they took all his money and his other belongings.

They then went again to the mosque, of which mention has been made, and brought out Rahim and his brother Baïram Ghazi, inhabitants of Bazardjik, who were engaged there in tobacco planting, and who happened to be present among the inhabitants of the village. After taking them also to their respective houses, they wounded the aforesaid Rahim with a knife in ten places; and after extorting his money and his other property, they left the place and went away. Although it was clearly understood that some of these ruffians were Bulgarians of the village of Guelendjik, of the Caza of Bazardjik, yet from the mere fact that they were Bulgarians and officials they escaped scot free.*

And again, on the 16th of the same month, two Bulgarian herdsmen from the village of Kazi, in the Caza of Bazardchük, collected and got together some ruffians, and thirty Bulgarian soldiers coming to the above-named village from Emir-Keui, with the intention of bringing them, collected all the inhabitants of the village, old and young, beat them shamefully with swords and whips and the butt-ends of their guns, and then kept them standing until the evening in the sun before a wine-shop, hungry and thirsty as they were.

In the meanwhile the soldiers entered the houses, and besides beating and reviling the women and young girls, stole several watches—to the number of seven, several ornaments, and other property. After this, the Natchalnik of Bazardjik and the President of the Council arrived in the village for the ostensible purpose of examining into the affair; but, although they reprimanded the Bulgarians after a fashion, they went on with Hadji Hodja, an inhabitant of the Lowe district; sent a party of twenty Mussulmans to Bazardjik, and then, taking the soldiers under their command, returned.

In the meantime, among those who had been beaten, two, namely, Suleiman Hodja and Nizam Ismail, were so ill that, although they would not probably die, yet they would never be able to work again, and would always be bed-ridden. After this the Bulgarian Mukhtar and the Elders took Faiz'ullah Oghlan Ali, and shut him in a wine-shop, and saying, "You know where the herdsmen have been taken to," kept beating him until he was nearly dead.

The same night, when the Mussulmans were gathered together before the mosque for evening prayer, the Bulgarian guard came up from the opposite quarter and asked the cause of their assembling, and on their replying that it was for purposes of prayer, the Bulgarians said, "Mosques and prayers are not allowed now," and, after putting a stop to the devotions, they severely beat Emr Ullah Agha Ismail, the Arabaji, and Abdullah, the barber, all old and honourable men. And two days after this Todros, the athlete, of the same village, calling to him some young Bulgarians and a few soldiers, invited into the Bulgarian quarter a person of the name of Berber Oghlou Saïd, through the instrumentality of the Kiahia, and, having bound him to a post in front of the wine-shop, beat him three separate times with oaken cudgels. The cause of this was that the aforesaid Todros had sold seven horses to Saïd in the time of Turkish rule, and received as their price 2,600 piastres in full. Later on he had wished to take them back, and, having failed to prove his right in the case he had instituted before the Bulgarian Tribunals, he had himself had recourse to this audacious violence in order to recover them.

And, again, on the night of Sunday, the 29th of the same month, some Bulgarians came to the village of Mivas Bey, in the Caza of Bazardjik, and, after leaving sentries at the necessary points, five of them, armed with carbines and rifles, attacked the house of one Billal, broke down the door, and rushed in. Having wounded Billal with their knives, they smothered his wife with the quilt and counterpane, and carried off everything that was in his boxes and baskets. When Billal's father saw this and cried for help, he was seized and wounded in two places; and the wife of another son of Billal, who happened to be in the garden, seeing Billal being beaten by one and another, began to scream: whereupon the malefactors commenced to fire upon the village, and retreated, firing as they went.

These things are recorded in the chronicle of passing events kept by the Mussulman inhabitants of Bazardjik.

Coming to the Caza of Varna, some twenty-five days ago, some Mussulmans having

* An Arabic quotation follows here:—"They are not responsible for all they do."

gone to the village of Preveda to buy apples, seven armed Bulgarians stopped the way, and, beginning at once to fire upon them, killed Kureh Ali, brother-in-law of Mutchak Mustafa Chaoush and Mulazim Salih. The other three fled, and so escaped. And, again, twenty days ago, Mollah Hassan and another man, named Refik, inhabitants of the village called Altchak Dereh, on the banks of the Kamchik, had been to Varna, and were returning to their homes, when some soldiers of the Bulgarian reserve stationed at Dervish Yovan Khan, on the further side of the Kamtchik, tried to take some trifling things that were on their horses. They refused, however, to part with them, whereupon the Bulgarians fell upon them, and, after beating them almost to death, proceeded to carry them off, under pretence of bringing them before the Chaoush of Yassa Bash, as if they were men accused of a crime. On their way they killed Molla Hassan, and threw him into the river, to favour the idea of his having fallen in and met his death by drowning. As they were on the point of murdering Refik they met some travellers, and, though they did not succeed in making away with him, there is little hope that he will recover from the effects of his maltreatment.

And, again, five days ago Hussein and his comrade, Osman Oghlou Mehmed, of Adjemler, were going to the mill, when they were stopped in the neighbourhood of Kara Ghiour by four Bulgarians, two of whom were armed with Martini rifles and two with large staves. After severely beating them, and splitting open Mehmed's head, they took from him 32 piastres, which were in his purse, and from Hussein his purse, money, and kerchief, and then went away.

And, again, one week ago, Mehmed Oghlou Osman, of Guzludjou, whilst carrying barley for sale to Varna, was stopped by two Bulgars of the village of Kurekler, at two hours distance from the town, at a place called Adjendeh Baïr. After stealing a tobacco-box which they found on him, and beating him cruelly to extort money, they found he had none, left him, and went away.

And, again, seven days ago, three Bulgarians stopped a man named Mastik, of the village of Derbend, in the Caza of Varna, as he was on his way to Varna, and stole from him 100 paras, the coat from his back, the shoes from his feet, and the tobacco-pouch from his breast.

And, again, five days ago, as Hassan, brother of Molla Ismail and Halil Ashmin Oghlou Alish, of the village of Sari Kolly, in the Caza of Varna, were going to Varna, they were stopped by three Bulgarians, who searched them, and, being unable to find anything, gave vent to their anger by beating them savagely, and then left them.

And, again, four days ago, a person named Mestan, a market gardener of the village of Yokchir, in the Caza of Varna, came to Varna, and while, after having transacted his business, he was going to the above-named village, two Bulgarians stopped his way, took 400 piastres which he had on his person, and decamped.

And, again, four days ago, Mehemet and Refik, of Khalajeli, who had taken the former's fowls to Varna, on their return to their village with the produce of the sale, were plundered by three Bulgarians, recognized as some of those Bulgarians of Eastern Roumelia who lately transferred their habitations to this side, of 500 piastres which they had upon them. The Bulgarians then went away.

This much is sufficient to show that, if these events, about which there is no doubt, and which take place day and night—and, indeed, every day and every hour—were fully written down, they would be confirmed. The insecurity has arrived at such a pitch that those villagers who come here to sell their corn, &c., and whose villages are close to the railway, give what they have received to some one who is travelling by it, and thus send their money to their villages; and those who do not live near the railway, being unable to take their money with them, leave it with a friend in whom they have confidence to be sent in a different way.

Changing the subject to the conduct of the Government officials, their acts seem to be a sufficient indication of their sentiments, and have their explanation in the state of things given below, thus:—

Ten days ago the Tajalinji of Varna went to the village of Halajli, situated in the Varna district, and saying, "Oh, you are the accomplices of brigands," sent to Varna from the village the Mukhtar, Peterli Mustapha, and Hadji Mehmed Oghal Veli, Hadji Muhieh Oghal, Hadji Hussein, Muhieh Ramazanin, Veli Ibrahim, Shamarli Dervish Hassan, and Mehmed Chaoush Oghlu Rustem, and imprisoned them. Whilst the above were in prison, "Let them stay there."

On the night of the 25th August, while the rest of the inhabitants of the said village were at prayers, a lot of Bulgarians came and surrounded the mosque. They placed a sentry at the door, and taking from amongst the inhabitants within the mosque Mustafa, son of Hadji Muhieh Oglou Hadji Hussein, who was imprisoned at Varna, they brought

him to his house, and, after taking such things as they knew he possessed, took him again to the mosque and shut him in. After him they took Hussein, son of Hadji Mehmed Oghul, conducted him in the same manner to his house, and, after taking all his existing property and 50 Turkish liras, led him back to the mosque. After shutting him in, they took Hadji Mollah Ahmed, conducted him to his house, and, in order to make him say where his money was, they put on his head a red-hot stone, and on his neck a red-hot tripod, and, so to speak, put his feet in the fire; and they plundered his wife and daughter-in-law of all their existing property and money, little by little, by dint of driving knives into them. Though they did not take the others away to their houses, they took everything they had upon them, and went away.

And, again, twelve days ago a set of scoundrels came by night to the village of Kojuk, in the Varna district, and broke open the house of a person named Veli. Whilst in the act of plundering it, notice was given immediately to Ivancho Chaoush, resident in that village, whereupon the Chaoush took a zaptieh who was in his company and went straight to the house in question. On his firing a shot to frighten the rascals, the fire was returned, and one of the shots happened to hit the Chaoush and killed him. Thereupon, as the said inhabitants had no arms, in order to cope with the rascals, they gave notice to the adjacent Bulgarian villagers of Oushenli, who had arms in abundance. From this village notice was given to the villages of Koumlidja, Konjoudjik, and Heverdji, and the Bulgarian inhabitants of these villages, amounting to more than 1,000 men, all fully armed, came to the said village of Kojuk, and, accusing the inhabitants of causing the death of the Chaoush, they beat all the Mussulmans they came across, both men and women. On the order of their leader, the priest of Oushenli, they forced the houses of all the inhabitants and plundered them of everything. Not content with this, on receiving a second order from the said priest, they were on the point of setting fire to the village at one end, intending to destroy it utterly, when the Natchalnik of Kizlondja arrived, and the village somehow or other was saved from being burnt. This being the state of things, the Natchalnik of Varna went to the village for the purpose of holding an inquiry, but the only heed he paid to the Mussulmans, who pray that their property and whatever else was stolen might be restored to them, was to institute an inquiry, in which he pretended to discover that the Mussulmans were in some manner guilty and deserving of punishment; and thus, instead of meeting with compassionate and humane treatment, the Mussulmans were, on the contrary, sent to prison, and are to this day still under arrest.

The hardest part of the matter is that the sergeants and men belonging to the police force think that, on the pretence of seeking for arms, it is lawful for them to examine Mussulman's houses, and to turn over boxes and other things, and that it is lawful for them to give a Mussulman a beating. Again, four days ago, the sergeant of Kozluja, with some of his men and some Bulgarian riffadi, went to the village of Doghaja, in the Caza of Varna, and, according to their custom, visited the houses in search of arms. They found a flag in the box of a man named Khalil Oghlu Salih, and giving to this banner the name of "Flag of the Turkish (Revolutionary) Committee," sent the Mukhtar and Elders of the village, with Salih, as prisoners to Varna, the sergeant, with his men, starting for Tatar Mahale, half-an-hour distant. On his arrival he set up this flag in front of the mosque, and summoning the Mukhtar and the Elders, searched every single house for arms. For all that, as he did not find anything, he said to the Mukhtar and Elders, "Are you not Turks, too? You, too, are under this flag," and with this senseless remark took them with him, and went to the village of Sam Guello, where he again acted in the above mentioned manner. Leaving that place he went to Yeni Mahalle, and, after taking the same proceedings there, proceeded to the village of Guenikjiler, and there, besides searching all the houses, boxes, &c., they even searched the persons of the women, and likewise took from this place also the Mukhtar and Elders of the village.

With these last, the Turks he had previously taken from the villages at which he had called, and those whom he met going to their work, formed quite a regiment of Mussulmans, in front of whom he placed Bulgarians, and started for Kojuklik. On the journey they had to cross the Batwa River, and here he made the poor Mussulmans carry on their backs all the Bulgarians except those on horseback (about twenty), that they might not wet their feet in the slightest degree, and they crossed to the other side. The said Chaoush gave these unhappy people a beating several times a day, and his first words were always, "The Mussulmans who remained on this side have no protector; no one can interfere; I can treat you just as I please; there is nobody to say thing to me about you." No one was in a condition to say anything to the contrary. On arriving in the neighbourhood of the village of Kapakli, one of these poor wretches, by name Emin, an inhabitant of the village of Guenikjiler, was made use of as a horse, as far as Kojuklik, a distance of two hours, by the Bulgarians, who mounted him in turns, and made him, so to speak, sweat blood, and reduced the unfortunate Emin to a pitiable condition. At length the above-mentioned village of Kojuklik is reached. The population of this village being entirely Bulgarian, the said Chaoush stopped there two nights in great state. Besides imprisoning the Mussulmans, whom he had collected in a stable, he compelled them to do groom's work, and to throw out the horses' dung with their hands, spades not being allowed them, and while this disgusting task was being done came and laughed and jeered at them. On leaving that place these Mussulmans, with their hands tied behind their backs, passed through the villages of Sujaz and Kozluja, and came to Kurekler. Here, in the night, they brought out one by one the Mukhtar and Elders of Yeni Mahallé, and beat them.

After this they left the place, this company of Mussulmans marching with their hands tied fast behind them, and armed zaptiehs and Bulgarians in front, behind, and at their sides as a guard, just as if they were murderers and assassins. They enter Varna by the Ibrahim Agha gate. As it had been proclaimed some days before that the Turkish Committee had been seized, a great crowd of Bulgarians came out to see them. The Mussulmans were hustled through the Ibrahim Agha gate and paraded through the Varoseh and Baluk Bazar quarters, were hooted, and had their eyes and faces spat upon and were subjected to insult and ignominy. Never has such vile treatment been seen or heard of, not only in the civilized age in which we live but in the world of barbarism of the early ages—the shameful disgrace of being brought day after day to head-quarters and imprisoned.

Now, as regards the true history of this "banner" question. For some time past it has been the custom in these parts for a few comrades among those who were enrolled for the first time in the army to club together, and to make each man a banner to carry about in their hands. In like manner, on completing their military service, it was usual for those who returned to the Fatherland to observe this custom again. Eight years ago the brother of the above-named Salih, one Kara Mohammed, got this banner made on obtaining his exchange from the army; but as the appointed hour of his death arrived immediately afterwards, he died, and in obedience to his dying wish his comrades took the banner which he himself could not bear and delivered it to the deceased's brother Salih, stating, at the same time, the circumstance of his death.

Salih, considering that it was a sort of souvenir of his brother, and that there were embroidered upon it certain verses of the Koran, the veneration of which is one of the glories of Islam, put it away carefully in a chest. This is the flag that was given out as being a revolutionary flag—this the banner that was spoken of in insulting language by the Bulgarians, who said, "See! the 'sacred banner' of the Mussulmans has come out." There is no question of the Mussulmans' banner being unfurled, or of their forming revolutionary Committees. No! they dare not even pass before a Bulgarian child. We leave it to the conscience of those who are initiated in the mysteries of politics to judge what the Government of Bulgaria is made of when this matter has attained such importance, and when, on such pretexts as the above, the Mussulman people are thus tortured without any inquiry being made into the matter. The clauses of the Treaty of Berlin on this subject, which secure the property, life, honour, and personal rights of every class of people in Bulgaria have, so far as the Mussulmans are concerned, not been carried out at all, and every minute the question of our annihilation is cropping up. Where, again, do our rights of equality remain, seeing that, with the exception of those who are well informed about political matters, and who know the meaning of the words, "humanity and civilization," in consequence of the countenance given by all the Government officials the Bulgarians as good as consider themselves the masters of the Turks, and the events which we have narrated are a true witness that they put no restraint upon their tyranny.

As this tyrannical treatment points every moment to our utter annihilation, as we cannot now or in the future be certain of maintaining our integrity, and as no Mussulman has strength enough to bear such execrable treatment, our villagers have already, in one part of the country, begun to disperse, and, naturally, they have been forced to abandon the village. If, once again, no heed be paid to our prayer, if no one comes to our aid, and if this impression and injustice be not soon stopped, seeing that the Mussulman inhabitants of Bulgaria are ready and eager to emigrate, we represent to you that the destruction which was witnessed in the last war, and a greater still, will be the result; and clinging to the skirts of your compassion and kindness to find a balm for the wounds which the Russian Government has opened in Moslem hearts by her avarice, by the desire merely of extending her territory, we beg earnestly that you will take the necessary steps, whatever means they may involve, to save us from such great calamities as those above detailed, and your Petitioners will ever pray.

No. 179.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 14.)

(No. 867. Secret.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October* 6, 1879.

COUNT ZICHY, the Austrian Ambassador, informed me that, at an audience which he had on Monday with the Sultan, His Majesty had appeared to be much preoccupied with the recent meetings of Prince Bismarck and Count Andrassy and of your Lordship and M. Waddington. His Majesty indeed asked the Ambassador to tell him, in a friendly way, whether he thought that the latter meeting had in it anything hostile to the Porte. Count Zichy did his best to reassure His Majesty on the general grounds of the well-known policy of England, which did not admit of any plans detrimental to the interests of the Turkish Empire.

With regard to the meeting of Prince Bismarck and Count Andrassy, Count Zichy said that he would tell me alone, quite confidentially, that he had been authorized by his Government to speak on the subject to the Sultan, and he had informed His Majesty that the result of the meeting was that the alliance of the three Emperors was at an end; that an exchange of views had taken place between the Ministers of the two Empires, resulting in an understanding which had the Treaty of Berlin for its base, and the danger of Slav aggression for its motive. The Sultan asked whether England was likely to look upon this understanding with a friendly eye, and Count Zichy replied that he had no knowledge of the way in which the British Government viewed it, but that as the alliance was one which was in every way favourable to Turkey, it could not but be agreeable to the British Cabinet.

The Sultan did me the honour to receive me on Wednesday, and he questioned me in a like manner on the subject of the interviews. I replied that I had no official intelligence regarding either, but that I was sufficiently well acquainted with your Lordship's views to feel sure that the English policy with regard to Greece, which was no doubt one of the principal subjects of your interview with M. Waddington, would not have been changed in any way, and that my having received no news clearly proved that this was so. The other matter discussed was, as the papers said, probably the finances of Egypt. It was, no doubt, restricted to a technical discussion, having no bearing upon the political relations of Egypt and Turkey. With regard to the other meeting, I said that I could not but share the view of the "Times," that it indicated the termination of the alliance of the three Emperors, and that if this opinion was correct both Turkey and England had much reason for satisfaction.

His Majesty then suggested that there would, on the other hand, be an alliance between Russia, France, and Italy; but I remarked that I thought that Italy would be much more likely to rally to the Powers which desired peace, that is to say, to Germany and Austria, than to entangle itself with France and Russia, and I also believed that the alliance of France and Russia was chimerical. The two undoubtedly coquetted with each other, but that I did not believe that the union would go beyond the preliminaries of courtship. "In that case," His Majesty said, "Russia will be completely isolated." "That," I replied, "is what I believe will be found to be the result of the meeting at Vienna, and I should say that if your Majesty will show a sincere desire to carry out the Treaty of Berlin in all its particulars, you will receive for your country the strong support of this powerful alliance, which must infallibly be approved by us if its object is the resistance of Slav aggression."

His Majesty said that he was not only determined to execute the Treaty of Berlin, but that he designed to retrench in every direction, that his Minister of Finance had drawn up a project for the equalization of revenue and expenditure, and that the scheme included a payment of 1 or 1½ per cent. to the creditors of the Porte. He trusted that if this scheme were realized Turkey would again be admitted to the money markets of Europe. I replied that if guarantees were given for a continuance of such a payment which commanded confidence it might be possible to raise money, but I warned His Majesty that if the creditors were not paid out of the Budget, and new loans were resorted to for the purpose of satisfying the foreign debt, the ruin of the Empire would be quickly and irretrievably complete.

His Majesty appeared to be in much better health than when I last had the honour of seeing him in May.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 180.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 14.)

(No. 868.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October* 6, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a telegram from Safvet Pasha to the Ottoman Representatives at the capitals of the Signatory Powers of the Treaty of Berlin, giving an account of the sitting of the Ottoman and Greek Plenipotentiaries on the rectification of the Greek frontier which took place yesterday.

The Greek Plenipotentiaries presented the Declaration, of which I had the honour to inclose a copy in my despatch No. of the ultimo, upon which the Ottoman Plenipotentiaries remarked that it must be understood that, according to this Declaration, the geographical indications of the 13th Protocol would be discussed in opening the negotiations, and that it was clear that that which could be discussed could be modified, since that which cannot be modified is beyond discussion.

The Hellenic Plenipotentiaries replied that they were restricted to the terms of the Declaration which they had proposed, and which had been approved by nearly all the Cabinets, and that they admitted neither explanation nor addition.

The Ottoman Plenipotentiaries rejoined that, as it was a question of making a joint Declaration, the parties to it must be agreed as to the signification of the words used.

The Hellenic Plenipotentiaries having declared that they could not go beyond what they had stated. Safvet Pasha made the following Declaration:

"We beg their Excellencies, the Hellenic Representatives, to take notice that we are ready, on account of the high authority which attaches to the wish of the Powers, to take as primary basis of our negotiations the indications of the 13th Protocol, that is to say, to study together the general line of the Valleys of the Calamas and the Peneus, to be adopted or modified according as, after discussion, it shall appear to us to be destined or not to establish between the two countries relations of reciprocal and stable security."

The Hellenic Plenipotentiaries said that they received this Declaration to refer it to their Government.

After giving the foregoing account of what took place at the sitting, the telegram proceeds to instruct the Ambassador to whom it is addressed to point out to the Cabinet to which he is accredited that it is much to be regretted that Greece should have consulted the Powers concerning its Declaration without the Porte having an opportunity to express its views on the subject.

It concludes by saying that the Porte is convinced that the Powers will approve the Declaration made by Safvet Pasha, which it characterizes as reasonable, clear, and straightforward, and that they will use their influence to obtain its acceptance by the Greek Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure in No. 180.

Safvet Pasha to Turkish Representatives abroad.

(Télégraphique.) *Le 5 Octobre,* 1879.

DANS une pensée de conciliation et pour faciliter la solution de l'incident, j'avais soumis à la fin de notre dernière séance aux Plénipotentiaires Hellènes le Projet de Déclaration suivant:—

Les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans constatent avec plaisir que leurs collègues de Grèce sont disposés à s'approcher des idées émises par eux et à entrer en matière, en considérant les indications du Protocole No. 13 comme susceptibles de discussion et de modifications.

Les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes avaient déclaré qu'ils soumettraient cette Déclaration à leur Gouvernement, dont ils feraient connaître la réponse à la séance suivante.

Au début de la séance d'aujourd'hui les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes, après trois semaines de silence, ont présenté et lu la Déclaration suivante qu'ils substituent à mon Projet:

"Le but des négotiations actuelles étant de faciliter aux deux Etats une entente désirée par l'Europe à Berlin sur une rectification de frontières destinée à établir entre la Turquie et la Grèce des rapports de réciproque et stable sécurité, les deux parties sont d'accord pour accepter comme point de départ et comme base de discussion les indications du Protocole No. 13.

Les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans ont répondu dans les termes suivants :—

"Il est bien entendu que suivant cette Déclaration nous allons commencer nos négociations en prenant pour bases premières les indications géographiques du Protocole No. 13 qui seront mises en discussion ; et il est clair que ce qui est mis en discussion est sujet à modification, puisque ce qui ne peut être modifié est hors de discussion."

Les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes ont déclaré qu'ils s'en tenaient aux termes de la Déclaration proposée par eux, et qui avait reçu l'approbation de presque tous les Cabinets de l'Europe, et qu'ils n'admettaient ni addition ni explication.

Les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans ont fait remarquer que puisqu'il s'agissait d'une Déclaration commune, il était indispensable de constater que les deux parties attachaient le même sens aux expressions employées dans la Déclaration commune.

Les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes ayant déclaré avoir dit leur dernier mot, j'ai donné lecture de la Déclaration suivante :—

"Nous prions leurs Excellences les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes de vouloir bien de nouveau prendre acte que nous sommes prêts en raison de la haute autorité qui s'attache au vœu exprimé par les Puissances, à prendre pour bases premières de nos négociations les indications du Protocole No. 13, c'est-a-dire, à étudier ensemble la ligne générale des Vallées du Calamas et du Pénée, pour l'adopter ou la modifier suivant qu'après discussion elle nous paraîtra destinée ou non à établir entre les deux pays des rapports de stable et réciproque sécurité."

Les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes ont dit qu'ils prenaient acte de cette Déclaration et qu'ils allaient en référer à leur Gouvernement.

Je prie votre Excellence de communiquer ce compte-rendu sommaire au Gouvernement près duquel elle est accréditée, en lui faisant remarquer combien il est regrettable que la Déclaration proposée par la Grèce ait été soumise aux Cabinets Européens et ait reçu l'approbation de la plupart d'entr'eux, comme l'affirment les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes, sans que la Sublime Porte en ait eu connaissance, et ait été appelée à présenter ses propres observations, et à soutenir et expliquer mon propre Projet de Déclaration, ce qui eut pu amener une entente sur une rédaction commune et éviter ainsi de nouveaux rétards.

Votre Excellence s'appliquera à faire ressortir :—

1. Que depuis le commencement de ce débat nous avons toujours et uniquement pris en considération le Protocole No. 13, dont nous avons accepté les termes dans leur esprit et dans leur lettre.

2. Que notre dernière Déclaration d'aujourd'hui est la confirmation éclatante de cette même et constante pensée, et de notre désir sincère de clore un incident qui seul arrête nos négociations, et qui a été si malheureusement soulevée par la Déclaration déposée à la première séance par les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes.

Nous avons trop de confiance dans la sagesse et dans la justice des Cabinets Européens pour n'être pas convaincus qu'ils donneront leur pleine et entière approbation à cette Déclaration, si rationnelle, si claire, et si loyale, et qu'ils useront de toute leur influence sur le Cabinet d'Athènes pour la lui faire accepter.

Je prie votre Excellence de vouloir bien donner d'urgence à son Excellence M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères lecture et copie du présent télégramme.

No. 181.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 14.)

(No. 869.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October* 7, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the accompanying copy of a despatch with its inclosures from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Prevesa, reporting cases of brigandage in that district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure 1 in No. 181.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Prevesa, September* 20, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of your Excellency, translation of a despatch from M. Kypriotis, reporting a case of brigandage which has been committed in the village of Papengon Zagori.

I take advantage of the present opportunity to subjoin extract from M. Kypriotis' despatch, dated 8th instant, on the sufferings of the inhabitants of Philiates.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 181.

M. Kypriotis to Vice-Consul Blakeney.

Sir, *Janina, September* 11, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Excellency that on Saturday last a band of 100 brigands made a raid upon the village of Papengon Zagori, and, after plundering in turn all the principal houses, they left with four animals laden with goods. The value of the plunder is roughly estimated at £ T. 2,000.

They committed no murder, and they only used violence to a widow, whom they burned with oil and robbed her of £ T. 100. They carried off three hostages, but set them free the same evening.

The leader is said to have been the notorious Leonidas Samarniotes.

The brigands were armed with breech-loaders.

I am, &c.
(Signed) B. KYPRIOTIS.

Inclosure 3 in No. 181.

M. Kypriotis to Vice-Consul Blakeney.

(Extract.) *Janina, September* 8, 1879.

THE evil is that the Christians suffer not only from their Mussulman fellow-countrymen, but are also sorely tormented by brigandage. I also learn with regret that even the troops that are sent in the pursuit of brigands commit various acts of violence.

No. 182.

Major Gordon to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 14.)

(No. 53.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October* 6, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose Protocol No. 50, containing report on the first section of the final Act of Delimitation of the southern frontier of Eastern Roumelia, together with the maps illustrating the zone of country through which the frontier passes between the Black Sea and the River Tundja.

Captain de Wolski, R.E., will probably return to Constantinople to-day or to-morrow, when the act of delimitation, as far as the River Arda, can be completed.

The reproduction of the maps of the Rhodope district is being pushed on as rapidly as possible, and about the middle of the month, on the return of the topographers sent to complete the small unfinished portions referred to in my despatches Nos. 50 and 52, I trust to be able to report to your Lordship that our labours will in a few days be brought to a final close.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. GORDON.

Inclosure in No. 182.

Protocole No. 50.—Séance tenue le 23 Septembre, 1879, à Constantinople, à Galata-Séraï.

Président, M. le Major Gonnon.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Capitaine Krahmer.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Capitaine C^te^ de Wurmbrand

Pour la France—
M. le Capitaine Nicolas.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Major Gordon.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Capitaine Tornaghi.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Philippoff.
Adjoint, M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Coummerau.

Pour la Turquie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Chakir Bey.
Adjoint, M. le Capitaine Seïfoullah Effendi.
Secrétaire, Onnik Effendi.

LE Protocole No. 49 est lu et adopté.

M. le Président rend compte de l'état d'avancement des travaux préparés par le Secrétariat. A la suite de cette communication, la Commission décide à l'unanimité de passer à la discussion de la partie du projet d'instrument diplomatique qui est relative à la fixation de la frontière entre la Mer Noire et la Toundja.

M. le Secrétaire donne lecture de l'Article 1^er^, lequel est ainsi conçu :—

"Le point de départ de la frontière sur le bord de la Mer Noire se trouve à l'intersection du thalweg du ravin qui débouche dans la Baie d'Athaman avec le bord de la plage. La baie dont il s'agit forme la partie méridionale d'une échancrure limitée au nord par le Cap Keupru-Bournou, au sud par le Cap Athaman, et dont la partie septentrionale est bordée par un marais situé à l'embouchure de l'Alan-Kaïrak-Déré ou Djavola-Déré (Kara-Agatch-Sou du nord de la Carte Autrichienne au 420,000).

"Les populations au nord comme au sud de la frontière auront en commun la jouissance de ladite baie, et pourront librement embarquer et débarquer les marchandises sur toute l'étendue de la plage."

L'Article 1^er^, mis aux voix, est adopté à l'unanimité.

La Commission prend ensuite connaissance de la première partie de l'Article 2, dont le texte est le suivant :—

"La frontière, quittant le bord de la mer, remonte le thalweg du ravin ci-dessus mentionné pour atteindre le point où commence le partage des eaux entre le Kara-Agatch-Sou au sud et l'Alan-Kaïrak-Déré ou Djavola-Déré au nord. A partir de ce point, elle suit sans interruption, dans une direction générale du nord-est au sud-ouest, une ligne naturelle de partage d'eau qu'elle ne quitte qu'après avoir atteint l'extrémité méridionale de la crête de Kizildjik-Baïr, à l'ouest du village d'Hamza-Beylik, sur la rive gauche de la Toundja.

"Les cours d'eau qui ont leurs bassins au nord de cette ligne sont, en allant de l'est à l'ouest : l'Alan-Kaïrak-Déré ou Djavola-Déré ; puis les cours d'eau qui se jettent dans la Mer Noire entre l'embouchure de l'Alan-Kaïrak-Déré et celle du Fuki-Déré, y compris le Fuki-Déré lui-même ; enfin divers petits affluents de la Toundja, coulant dans la direction du sud-est au nord-ouest et dont les principaux sont le Papaskeui-Déré et les rivières Kutchuk et Buyuk-Derbend.

"Ceux qui ont leurs bassins au sud sont, en suivant le même ordre : le Kara-Agatch Sou, qui a son embouchure dans la Mer Noire près du Cap Kara-Agatch ; le Karanlik-Déré, qui, sous le nom de Vélika-Déré, se jette dans la Mer Noire près du Cap Sau-

Stéfanos ; puis différents affluents de la Maritza et de la Toundja, coulant dans la direction du nord au sud, et dont les principaux sont le Téké-Déré, le Has-Déré, et le Pravoda-Déré.

"De son extrémité orientale près de la mer, la ligne ci-dessus définie se dirige vers le hameau de Karatoprak, qui reste à la Turquie, passe au nord de Tchiflik Moussakeui, qui reste également à la Turquie, et gagne le sommet de Grazni-Baïr. De là elle se retourne dans une direction nord-sud, passe à l'est du hameau de Déli-Racho, qui reste à la Roumélie Orientale et atteint le sommet de Hadjika-Baïr. Elle s'infléchit alors vers l'est, laissant à la Turquie le village de Vijitza, passe entre le village de Kalova, qui reste à la Turquie, et le hameau de Doudenova, qui reste à la Roumélie Orientale, et gagne successivement les sommets de Svéti-Ilia, de Jouvak et de Vosna, en laissant à la Turquie le village de Konak et à la Roumélie Orientale la Chapelle de Svéti-Ilia, située au sommet du Mont Vosna. De ce point, la frontière continuant à se diriger vers l'ouest, passe entre le village d'Ouroumkeui, qui reste à la Roumélie Orientale, et le village ruiné de Karanlik, qui reste à la Turquie ; gagne la hauteur dite Tchatal-Tarla, à l'est d'un vignoble qu'elle traverse en suivant un chemin dont la direction se confond sensiblement avec celle de la ligne de partage, et atteint le point culminant de la montagne d'Ikichetchiler, laissant à la Roumélie Orientale le village d'Alagun (Altino de la Carte Autrichienne). De là, changeant de direction vers le sud, elle passe à l'ouest du village de Kara-Evren et du village ruiné d'Evreneskeui, qui restent tous deux à la Turquie, laissant à la Roumélie Orientale celui de Tékeudjé, et s'infléchit de nouveau vers l'ouest non loin du point où le chemin de Karabanlar se détache du chemin de Kara-Evren à Bélevrin, laissant à la Turquie le village de Karabanlar. Elle atteint dans cette nouvelle direction le col de Citchandjé entre Bélevrin et Alatli, puis dans une direction nord-sud celui d'Akmesar entre Bédjenné-Baïr, et Arabadji-Baïr, laissant à la Roumélie Orientale le village de Bélevrin, à la Turquie celui d'Alatli. Du col d'Akmesar la frontière se dirige vers l'ouest et atteint le point culminant de Kervan-Séraï-Baïr, laissant à la Roumélie Orientale les villages de Grand et Petit Almali, et à la Turquie celui d'Erneni-Mahalé. Elle gagne ensuite la hauteur dite Kara Iokouch, et de là, prenant la direction du sud-ouest, passe entre le village de Kaïbilar, qui reste à la Roumélie Orientale, et celui de Pentcho Mahalé, qui reste à la Turquie ; arrive près du hameau de Malkotchlar, qui se trouve également rattaché à la Turquie, gagne le sommet de Kirsli-Baïr et atteint le col qui forme la tête des bassins du Kisildjikli Déré à l'est et du Utch Kilissé Déressi à l'ouest, laissant à la Turquie le village de Devlet-Agatch. Reprenant ensuite sa direction vers l'ouest, elle longe le chemin connu sous le nom de Tata-Iol, gagne la hauteur de Kodja-Baïr-Alaulari, entre le village de Khodjakeui (Udzakioj de la Carte Autrichienne), qui reste à la Roumélie Orientale, et celui de Vaïeal, qui reste à la Turquie, et atteint le sommet de Tchakir-Baba-Tépessi, à l'est de Buyuk-Derbent, qui reste à la Roumélie Orientale. De là elle gagne au sud de ce dernier village la hauteur de Skripka-Baïr, laissant à la Turquie les villages ruinés de Hadjilar et de Koutchounli, passe entre le village de Téké, qui reste à la Turquie, et celui de Kourtalan, qui reste à la Roumélie Orientale, atteint la hauteur de Mélik Baba Tépessi, au nord du village d'Hamzabeylik, qui reste à la Turquie, et contournant ensuite ce village à l'ouest par la crête de Kizildjik-Baïr, arrive au point culminant où se termine cette crête au sud.

"La frontière, quittant en ce point la ligne de partage des eaux, gagne en ligne droite le sommet d'Ouzoum-Baïr ; puis elle atteint, en suivant le prolongement de cette ligne, le débouché d'un ravin sur la rive droite de la Toundja à Dokolianka-Baïr. Le point où elle coupe la Toundja est situé à 1,200 mètres environ et en aval d'un gué connu des gens du pays sous le nom de Dokolianka-Guétchit."

La première partie de l'Article 2, mise aux voix, est adoptée à l'unanimité.

(Signé) KRAHMER.
WURMBRAND.
L. NICOLAS.
R. GORDON.
D. TORNAGHI.
PHILIPPOFF.
CHAKIR BEY.

No. 183.

Mr. Egerton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 14.)

(No. 643.)
My Lord, *Vienna, October 11, 1879.*

I TOLD Baron Calice that Her Majesty's Government proposed to appoint Captain Sale to the Special Arab-Tabia Commission; he said that he felt no doubt the appointment was a good one; that the Austrian Government had already appointed a military man as their Commissioner, and the Russians had also named an officer of the general Staff.

While on this subject his Excellency said that Roumania had addressed a request to the Powers to be also represented in the Commission; that up to the present two had answered this demand. The Russian Government answered that they had no objection to the presence of a Roumanian as a "consultative" member of the Commission, and the Italian answer was in much the same sense.

To the term "consultative" the Austrian Government demurred, as it seemed to imply that the rest of the Commission had the power of coming to a decision—a power which was reserved to the Cabinets only—and they thought it very necessary to guard against misunderstanding. They were quite willing that a Roumanian should be appointed to be present at the Commission, as he might be able to give useful explanations as to local characteristics, and the distinction made by them is merely verbal, and aimed at preventing any change from the spirit of Article XI of the Berlin Treaty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 184.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 14.)

(No. 693.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, October 13, 1879.*

I ARRIVED at Constantinople this morning.

No. 185.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.**

(No. 255.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 14, 1879, 5·45 P.M.*

CAPTAIN SALE will be instructed to attend meeting of Commission proposed by Russian Government for the 27th instant.

Inform Government to which you are accredited.

(Following to Sir A. H. Layard only):—

Inform Captain Sale as above, and say that his instructions will be sent to care of Her Majesty's Representative at Bucharest.

No. 186.

Mr. R. Thomson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 14, 6·15 P.M.)

(No. 53. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Tehran, October 14, 1879, 8·20 P.M.*

THE Russian Minister has informed the Minister for Foreign Affairs that the Akhal campaign is over for this year; that General Tergukasow will shortly return to Chekishler, and that most of the troops will be sent to Baku, Salian, and Krasnovodsk for the winter, but that the expedition will be renewed next spring.

(Communicated to India.)

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* Also to Mr. Plunkett, Mr. Adams, Sir A. Paget, Mr. Egerton, Sir J. Walsham, and Mr. White.

No. 187.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.**

(No. 1259.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 14, 1879.*

I HAVE to-day requested your Excellency, by telegraph, to inform the Turkish Government that Her Majesty's Government have decided to instruct Captain Sale, R.E., the British member of the Commission for the delimitation of the Turco-Montenegrin frontier, to proceed to Silistria to act in a similar capacity on the Commission which is about to meet there on the 27th instant, according to the proposal of the Russian Government, with a view to the settlement of the question in dispute respecting the frontier between Bulgaria and the Dobrudscha.

[I have to request your Excellency to acquaint Captain Sale with this decision, and to inform him that his instructions will be addressed to the care of Her Majesty's Representative at Bucharest.]†

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 188.

Mr. Adams to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 15.)

(No. 1038.)
My Lord, *Paris, October 14, 1879.*

IN accordance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, I have informed M. Waddington that Her Majesty's Government agree to Roumania being represented on the Commission to meet at Silistria on the Arab-Tabia question, "officieusement et à titre de renseignement."

M. Waddington said that he had given a similar answer to the Roumanian Agent.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 189.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 15, 10 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, October 14, 1879, 11·45 P.M.*

GREEK Commissioners at Constantinople have been instructed to inform their colleagues that this Government takes note of the Ottoman Declaration made after the receipt of the last Greek Declaration, and to request their Ottoman colleagues to indicate the line of frontier Porte is prepared to propose.

No. 190.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Palgrave.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 15, 1879.*

IN reply to your telegram of the 11th instant, you can leave your present post early in December, which will enable you to reach Siam long before the hot weather sets in.

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* Similar despatches were addressed to Mr. Plunkett, Mr. Adams, Sir A. Paget, Mr. Egerton, Sir J. Walsham, and Mr. White.

† To Sir H. Layard only.

No. 191.

Mr. Lyall to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 15, 3·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tiflis, October* 15, 1879, 2·50 P.M.

CAMEL men of Turkoman expedition not being paid deserted with retreating [group omitted]; report great part cut off by Turkomans.

No. 192.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 15, 6 P.M.)

(No. 152.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October* 15, 1879, 2·30 P.M.

BARON JOMINI tells me that Prince Tzeretelew and M. Davidoff having been summoned to Livadia to report, have now been sent back to their respective posts with strictest orders from Emperor to do their utmost to keep the Bulgarian element quiet.

No. 193.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 1261.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 15, 1879.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 848 of the 28th ultimo, and I have to state to you in reply that I approve your having communicated to his Highness Safvet Pasha a translation of Captain Clayton's despatch No. 4, Political, of the 29th August, reporting on the critical state of affairs at Van.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 194.

Sir J. Walsham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 15, 10 P.M.)

(No. 71.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, October* 15, 1879, 6 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 57, I have informed German Government of conditions on which Her Majesty's Government agree to Roumania being represented on Silistria Commission. No application for the consent of Germany to the proposal has yet been made by Roumania. Minister for Foreign Affairs, however, thinks personally that the object of Roumania in wishing to be represented is to make the public believe that the Powers to a certain extent recognize her, and his Excellency, moreover, does not consider that after her behaviour with regard to the question of emancipation she had a right to expect any kind of concession from the Powers.

Minister for Foreign Affairs understands that manner in which Roumania would be represented in the Commission would not in reality alter her present position in respect to question of recognition, but his Excellency feels that this distinction might not be so easily understood by the Roumanian people. Still, if the other Powers are in favour of her being represented in the way proposed, Germany will refrain from raising objections.

The Austrian Ambassador tells me privately that Minister for Foreign Affairs has used the same language to him.

No. 195.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 16.)

(No. 62. Political. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Salonica, October* 7, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that Baron de Ring, the First French Commissioner on the International Commission for the organization of Eastern Roumelia, arrived here from Uscup on the 3rd instant, and left this morning for Mount Athos, after visiting which he will extend his tour to Cavalla, Drama, and other districts on this side of Mount Rhodope.

M. de Ring has been travelling during the last month in Eastern Roumelia, Bulgaria, and the northern districts of Macedonia. From Kuistendil, in Bulgaria, he proceeded to Egri-Palanka, Comanova, and Uscup, and thence to Pristina and Mitrovitza. He spent about a week in visiting the country between Uscup and Pristina, the authorities of which showed him every mark of attention and respect. It appears that the object of his tour is to ascertain the state of feeling of the Christian and Mahommedan inhabitants in connection with the territorial and administrative changes effected by the Treaty of Berlin, and I believe he also particularly directed his inquiries to the number, condition, and treatment of the Mahommedan fugitives from Servia, Bulgaria, and Eastern Roumelia.

I have exchanged visits with M. de Ring, in the course of which he alluded to the present state of affairs in Eastern Roumelia and Bulgaria.

He considers that the practical administration of Eastern Roumelia has proved a failure; disorder still reigns in every department save one—the financial, the laws are imperfectly applied, security has not been established, and the returned Mahommedan fugitives are ill-treated and persecuted by the Christian inhabitants and authorities. This state of things M. de Ring attributes to the following causes:—

1. The error committed by the Berlin Congress of not instructing the Administration of that province to Europeans.
2. The utter incompetency of Aleko Pasha for the office of Governor-General.
3. The intrigues of Russia whose creature Aleko Pasha is.

Had a Governor-General, chosen from a country having no direct interest in the Eastern question, been placed at the head of the Administration with an adequate staff of Europeans, composed of men endowed with administrative capacity, a knowledge of the world, and high characters for integrity, the difficulties that lie in the way of a proper and regular working of the administration in accordance with the Constitution drawn up by the International Commission, would have vanished, and Eastern Roumelia might have formed a model Government for the other provinces of the Empire.

The want of foresight shown by the Ottoman Government and some of the Great Powers in appointing a Governor-General, proposed by Russia, to whose policy he would be subservient, leaves the country open to intrigue, and offers every inducement and facility to Russian Agents for keeping the inhabitants in a state of constant political agitation and disturbance.

The Financial Department of the province, being under the immediate control of Europeans, is working admirably, and the local revenue has in consequence sensibly increased—as much as four times the amount collected under the Russian régime. On the whole, M. de Ring is of opinion that so long as Aleko Pasha remains in office it is hopeless to expect that the Administration of Eastern Roumelia will be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin and the Constitution drawn up by the International Commission.

M. de Ring's impressions on the state of Bulgaria appear more favourable and encouraging. He considers this Principality to have the start of Eastern Roumelia, and to be making steady and real advances in the paths of progress and development. He finds the soil rich and fertile, and the inhabitants earnest, serious, and hard-working.

Prince Alexander, he says, is an intelligent and well-intentioned Ruler, evidently determined to do his duty to his adopted country, and at the same time actively striving to gain the good-will and support of Europe by carrying out the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin. His Government is conscientiously trying to restore order and tranquillity, to perfect the administrative, judicial, and financial system of the country, and to afford protection and assistance to the Mahommedan and Jewish inhabitants. It is also doing its best to encourage and facilitate the repatriation of the Mahommedan fugitives. M. de Ring considers the ties that bind the Bulgarians to Russia to be simply those of gratitude for the freedom they have acquired through her assistance; and among the many signs which he observed of Bulgarian "éloignement" from Russian influence one struck him as very

marked, namely, that the Government of Prince Alexander is now abolishing some of the laws and regulations that the Russians had laid down in their Constitution, and adopting in their stead others derived from the Constitution of Eastern Roumelia.

M. de Ring also expressed himself to me strongly against the ill-will and want of good faith which are manifested towards the Mahommedan fugitives by the Governments of Servia and Eastern Roumelia, whose policy is evidently directed to discouraging, as much as possible, the return of these fugitives to their homes. M. de Ring estimates the aggregate number of fugitives in the Vilayet of Cossova at 100,000 souls, most of whom are from Bulgaria and the districts annexed to Servia, a very small proportion of them being from Eastern Roumelia.

He remarked that, although the Prince and Government of Bulgaria encouraged and protected the repatriation of the fugitives from that Principality, the Governor-General of the Vilayet of Cossova was decidedly opposed to it, and threw every obstacle in the way of those desiring to return. During his visit to Egri-Palanka, Comanova, Uscup, and Pristina, he came across large numbers of these poor outcasts, many of whom, including some influential Beys, went secretly to him and complained of the conduct of the Ottoman authorities in preventing them from going back to their homes in Bulgaria.

While he was at Uscup a telegraphic order was received from the Governor-General of Cossova, directing the authorities to pursue and turn back seventy fugitive families who had clandestinely left Comanova for Kiustendil, in Bulgaria; and it appears that this order was carried out in a harsh and offensive manner.

M. de Ring also considers the measures adopted by the Ottoman provincial authorities in regard to the fugitives totally inadequate for their maintenance, and highly detrimental to their future prospects.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 196.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 16.)

(No. 63. Political.)

Salonica, October 8, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of a Report, with two inclosures, which I have this day addressed to Sir Henry Layard, relative to the situation of affairs in Thessaly, Epirus, and Macedonia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 196.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Salonica, October 8, 1879.

Sir,

YOUR Excellency will be glad to hear that the state of affairs in Thessaly is improving. Mr. Longworth, in a recent letter from Larissa, states that that province is very quiet, no acts of brigandage having been committed for nearly a month, thanks to Chevket Pasha's zeal and energy in the matter. Mr. Longworth also remarks that Chevket Pasha is very much liked by the Christians, but not by the Beys, whom he won't allow to have their own way in public affairs.

On the other hand, I regret to say that the most recent accounts that have reached me from the British Vice-Consuls, and other sources in the interior of Epirus and Macedonia, do not indicate any change in the situation of affairs in those provinces.

Mr. Vice-Consul Blakeney reports from Preveza that numerous bands of brigands are abroad in Epirus, especially in the direction of Conitza, Zagori, and Metzovo; and Mr. Consular Agent Kypriotis states, in his recent reports from Janina, that a band of thirty robbers attacked, on the 16th ultimo, the village of Bultzi, in the district of Zagori, and plundered and cruelly ill-treated its inhabitants.

He also reports that the wealthy peasant farmer, Christodolou by name, who, in August last, was carried off by the brigands from the vicinity of Tzepelovo, has been released, his relatives having paid a ransom of 450 Turkish liras to his captors.

My correspondent at Monastir reports that that province also continues to be infested by brigands, who more especially confine their operations to the districts of Koritza, Kastoria, and Nasilitza.

A short time ago a band of these marauders, composed of Greco-Vlachs, attacked the village of Petlani, and, after a severe fight, of four hours' duration, with its inhabitants, they succeeded in plundering and burning several houses, and carrying off a number of the villagers, for whose ransoms they demand a large sum of money.

Towards the end of last month another band carried off several hostages from the village of Selitza, for whose ransom it demands the large sum of 2,000 Turkish liras.

The Acting British Vice-Consul at Cavalla reports the presence of bands of robbers in the direction of Zihna and Alistratti, in the Sandjak of Drama, but he attaches no political significance to them.

Mr. Langdon, who has been acting as my correspondent at Serres during the last six years, has furnished me with a very unsatisfactory report on the situation of affairs in that sandjak.

I transmit herewith a copy of his letter, as well as a copy of a letter from a correspondent at Menlik, relative to the disturbed state of that district, which is included in the Sandjak of Serres.

The districts of Mount Olympus, those of Allassona, Caraferia, and Catterina, in particular, also continue very disturbed by brigands. The notorious robber Chiefs Panayotti Caloyeros and Nicko have recently returned from Greece, where they had taken refuge some time ago, and are now committing depredations upon the Christian villages in the above-named districts. Their most recent exploit was enacted at the village of Pirghetto, which they surrounded on the 1st instant, and levied blackmail from its principal inhabitants.

It is rumoured here that both Panayotti Caloyeros and Nicko are employed by the "Amina," or Defence Committee in Greece, in fomenting disturbances in Macedonia and Thessaly. Whether this is true or not I cannot yet say, but it is a fact that these notorious Klephtic Chiefs are in the habit of taking refuge in Greece when hard pressed by the Turks.

It appears that many of the lawless characters in Thessaly, unable to continue their operations with impunity in presence of the large number and activity of the Ottoman troops in that province, have come over to this side of Mount Olympus and united with the bands of Caloyeros, Nicko, Cazara, and other leaders.

My correspondent at Catterina informs me that no less than fourteen Chiefs are at present engaged in brigandage in the districts of Mount Olympus, and that the aggregate number of their followers exceeds 200. The following are the names of these Chiefs:—

Panayotti Caloyeros, Nicko, Dimitrios Cazara, Manzourani, Davellas, Vassilis, Panayotti Sarakatchanos, Giorgios Tchamis, Ganiass, Alexi Vlahos, twelve Greeks and Vlachs.

Brahos and Fehim, two Tosca Albanians.

The insecurity in that part of Macedonia has become so alarming that the Commander-in-chief, Safvet Pasha, has proceeded to the spot, accompanied by Salih Pasha, for the purpose of taking some effectual measures against the evil. He visited Yenidjeh, Vodina, Caraferia, and Catterina, the garrisons of which he has reinforced.

He has also instituted in each of those places a Mixed Commission, composed of two Christian and two Turkish notables, to be presided by the Commandants of the local garrisons. These Commissions are to go the round of the villages in their respective districts, and draw up nominal lists and particulars of all individuals who are absent from their homes, and suspected by the Primates and Elders of having taken to or connived with brigandage; and they will offer a free pardon to all such absentees on condition they surrender to the military authorities within a given date; in the contrary case their families and effects will be removed from the district and placed under police surveillance.

I very much doubt if this measure will meet with success, the more so as it is stated that some of the district authorities, those of Caraferia in particular, have lately acted with treachery in their dealings with the brigands. But be that as it may, public opinion here does not anticipate any great change for the better will result from such expedients, and I apprehend that the state of affairs in this province will become more serious and dangerous should the Porte delay in taking prompt measures to introduce effective police arrangements.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 196.

Mr. Langdon to Consul-General Blunt.

Serrès, October 3, 1879.

Sir,

THE brigands in the mountains are daily committing depredations, notwithstanding the efforts of the Government to put them down. The brigands are chiefly divided into two bands; one is headed by Kukus, who ravages the country about Vrondu, Frastina, Banitza, &c. It was this band about a month ago, in plain daylight, that entered the church at Sairako during service, and captured therein seven men; twenty-five robbers entered the church, and about fifty were lurking in the vicinity. The other band is headed by Kukolitzo, a Wallachian of Ramna. He stalks about Poroia, Vetrina, and Petritz, &c. At Proia sometime ago he lifted blackmail on the village, amounting to 200*l.* He comes down in the valley unconcerned; he is left unmolested. His family has been brought to Serres, and is under guard at the Greek hospital.

It is ascertained beyond doubt these brigands have no political connection whatever. Since the occupation of Djuma by the Turks, whatever correspondence they may have had with insurrectionary Committees in Bulgaria has been completely severed.

These culprits have, therefore, degenerated from political instruments to common brigands, acting solely on their own responsibility.

A Stoyan of Banitza, a petty robber Chief, lately submitted to the authorities, and craved the Imperial clemency. He is at present under police surveillance in Serres.

The Turks here are of opinion, if the Government would only authorize Bashi-Bazouks to chase the robbers, brigandage would son be annihilated.

It seems, however, the Government is afraid to authorize such, for fear of abuses and outrages, and very likely such a cure would be greater than the present evil. It is strange, however, the authorities do not allow the rural population to arm and chase the malefactors.

Many a villager has been taxed by the authorities as an abettor of the brigands, and punished accordingly for having supplied the brigands with quarters and provisions. The villagers on the other hand expostulated how they were to resist demands made them by armed men, whilst they themselves were unarmed, and had no means or right to fire on them in case they were fired upon. The authorities require the villagers to bring in the brigands bound, but not wounded or shot.

At the time of Husni Pasha some years ago, brigandage was rife, he adopted the plan of arming the villagers, and authorized them to shoot the brigands in case of necessity, making every village responsible for outrages committed by robbers in its vicinity, and made the same restore to the sufferers any ransoms and amount robbed from them. Whether this was too arbitrary is a question: however, it had the desired effect; brigandage vanished, and was never heard of in these parts till the commencement of the present Turkish difficulties.

The Government employs a strong force of regular troops on the spot; it is doubted whether these are adapted to put brigandage down.

The last act of brigandage which created sensation here was committed on the 1st instant. A certain Arghiri Rafti of Serres went to his vineyard near Dutli to gather the crop of grapes. The villagers in the evening advised him to return to the village, as times were troublous. He did not listen to their advice. At sundown the robbers captured and carried him to the mountains, and demand a ransom of 600*l.* On the news of the event, troops were dispatched to the vicinity.

Besides the depredations committed by brigands, the "Muhajirs," or Turkish fugitives from Bulgaria, are committing many outrages, and murders are of nearly daily occurrence.

On the whole, the country is in a state of insecurity and disturbance.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. LANGDON.

Inclosure 3 in No. 196.

Extract of a Letter from Menlek.

Menlek, le $\frac{7}{19}$ *Septembre*, 1879.

AVANT quelques jours, sur la route de Serrès à Vroulos, vers le point appelé Tzomalik, à deux heures de distance d'ici, une bande de Chrétiens a arrêté et enlevé un zaptié de la circonscription de Serrès; n'ayant pas été relâché jusqu'à présent, on croit généralement qu'il ait été assassiné. Cette bande, ou une autre, a poursuivi du côté de Vrastari six zaptiés, qui ont réussi à se sauver en trouvant asile dans le village. Une semaine avant, des brigands se rendant à Veziniko, une heure distant d'ici, cernèrent le Djami et fusillèrent trois Turcs parmi ceux qui en sortaient. Cette bande se composait de soixante hommes, ceux qui cernèrent le Djami n'étaient que de vingt.

Dans les environs de Ménélik les brigands exercent librement et ouvertement leurs exploits. Une caravane de commerçants revenant du Bazar de Svati-Bratsias à Ménélik a été arrêté; huit autres ont été enlevés des vignes de Ménélik sous les yeux des soldats Turcs. En outre de ceux qui ont été arrêtés le 16 courant, les brigands ont enlevés cinq autres de Ménélik en leur prenant de l'argent, et coin à quelques pas de Ménélik. Les habitants de Ménélik effarés, et craignant que les brigands avançant ne vinssent à Ménélik même, télégraphièrent au Mutessarif de Serrès, au Gouverneur-Général, au Ministère à Constantinople, et au Patriarcat pour demander protection. Dans la circonscription de Démir-Hissar des brigands se rendant à Croussova entrèrent dans la maison d'un négociant habitant le village, le maltraitèrent cruellement, ainsi que sa femme, et le pillèrent. Cette bande ou une autre, se rendant après quelques jours dans ce village fit dix prisonniers, dont cinq furent relâchés et les cinq autres gardés. Dans le district de Pitropsi il existe aussi des bandes de voleurs. Une de ces bandes a fait prisonniers deux des principaux habitants de l'endroit.

No. 197.

Major-General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 16.)

(No. 92.)

My Lord,

London, October 16, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to forward copies of Protocols Nos. 33, 34, and 35 of the proceedings of the Bulgarian Boundary Commission, bringing the record down to the conclusion of the business and the adjournment *sine die* of the Commission.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 197.

Protocole No. 33.—*Séance tenue à Constantinople, à l'Hôtel de la Municipalité du 6e Cercle, le* 20 *Septembre*, 1879.

Étaient présents:

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Major Comte Wedel.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Colonel Baron de Ripp,
M. le Capitaine Podstawski.

Pour la France—
M. le Commandant Lemoyne,
M. le Capitaine Marmier.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Major-Général Hamley,
M. le Major Ardagh,
M. le Capitaine Jones.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Orero,
M. le Capitaine Vicino-Pallavicino.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Bogolubow,
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Schmeur.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence le Général Tahir Pacha,
Simon Effendi (Papasian),
Le Capitaine Cherafetin Effendi.

LA séance est ouverte à 1 heure et demie.
Le Protocole No. 32 est lu et adopté.
Le Président rend compte à la Commission de la démarche faite par le Secrétariat

auprès de la Sublime Porte, à l'effet de relever sur l'exemplaire original de la Carte de Délimitation de 1830 les noms des îles attribuées respectivement à la Principauté de Valachie et aux Provinces Ottomanes de la rive droite du Danube. Il invite ensuite les Commissaires à procéder à la signature de l'Acte et de son Annexe No. 1, ci-après reproduits, ainsi que du croquis donnant la rectification de la frontière méridionale de l'ancien Sandjak de Sofia, constituant l'Annexe No. 2 :

Acte fixant : (1) *la Frontière Danubienne de la Bulgarie ;* (2) *la Frontière entre la Bulgarie et la Turquie (Macédoine) ;* (3) *la Frontière entre la Bulgarie et la Serbie.*

Le Congrès de Berlin a stipulé dans l'Article II du Traité conclu le 13 Juillet, 1878, que les frontières de la nouvelle Principauté de Bulgarie seraient fixées sur les lieux par une Commission Européenne, où les Puissances Signataires seraient représentées.

Leurs Majestés l'Empereur d'Allemagne, l'Empereur d'Autriche-Hongrie, M. le Président de la République Française, Leurs Majestés la Reine du Royaume-Uni de la Grande Bretagne et de l'Irlande, Impératrice des Indes, le Roi d'Italie, l'Empereur de toutes les Russies, et le Sultan, Empereur des Ottomans, ont à cet effet nommé pour leurs Commissaires, savoir :—

Sa Majesté l'Empereur d'Allemagne, le Sieur Comte Karl von Wedel, Major d'Etat-Major, Attaché Militaire à l'Ambassade d'Allemagne à Vienne ;

Sa Majesté l'Empereur d'Autriche-Hongrie, le Sieur Charles Clrétien Henry Baron de Ripp, Colonel d'Etat-Major ;

M. le Président de la République Française, le Sieur Jules Victor Lemoyne, Chef d'Escadron d'Etat-Major ;

Sa Majesté la Reine du Royaume-Uni de la Grande Bretagne et de l'Irlande, Impératrice des Indes, le Sieur Edward Bruce Hamley, Général Major ;

Sa Majesté le Roi d'Italie, le Sieur Balthasar Alexandre Orero, Lieutenant-Colonel d'Etat-Major ;

Sa Majesté l'Empereur de toutes les Russies, le Sieur André Bogolubow, Colonel d'Etat-Major, Aide-de-Camp de Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Russie ;

Sa Majesté le Sultan, Empereur des Ottomans, son Excellence Méhemmed Tahir Pacha, Général de Brigade d'Etat-Major.

Lesquels, munis de leurs pouvoirs et instructions, et réunis en Commission, ont fixé dans les conditions ci-après, les parties de la frontière de la Principauté de Bulgarie qui n'ont pas déjà fait l'objet d'actes spéciaux :—

1. *Frontière Danubienne de la Bulgarie.*

Article 1er. Au nord, entre l'ancienne frontière de Serbie et la frontière de la nouvelle province Roumaine de la Dobroudja, la frontière suit le thalweg du Danube, tel qu'il sera reconnu et déterminé par une première entente entre les deux Etats intéressés, et successivement dans des vérifications périodiques.

Art. 2. Le thalweg du Danube est la ligne continue des plus grands sondages, qui correspond généralement à la voie la plus propre à la navigation d'aval durant les plus basses eaux ordinaires. Dans le cas où le fleuve forme deux bras navigables, celui des deux qui dans le cours de l'axe de son thalweg particulier offrira la sonde la moins profonde ne pourra être considéré comme le bras du thalweg du fleuve.

Toutefois, pour ne porter aucune atteinte aux droits précédemment établis, toutes les îles situées à droite du thalweg qui, dans la délimitation exécutée en vertu du Traité spécial d'Andrinople, en date du 14 Septembre, 1829, relatif aux Principautés de Moldavie et de Valachie, ont été attribuées à ces Principautés, resteront comme enclaves à la Roumanie, toutes celles qui, situées à gauche du thalweg, ont été attribuées aux provinces de la rive droite du Danube feront partie de la Bulgarie.

Art. 3. Un état ci-annexé donne les noms des îles attribuées aux deux parties intéressées dans la délimitation précitée ; il est conforme aux indications de la carte établie en 1830 pour l'intelligence des dites opérations, et dont l'original est déposé à la Sublime Porte.

Art. 4. Le thalweg du Danube une fois reconnu comme il est dit aux Articles 1 et 2, et avec les restrictions indiquées à l'Article 2, formera la limite de souveraineté jusqu'à la reconnaissance suivante, quels que soient les changements que le thalweg réel puisse éprouver pendant l'intervalle d'une reconnaissance à l'autre.

Art. 5. Quant aux droits de propriété, de jouissance et d'usage, de la part des particuliers, des communes ou des Etats, sur les îles et les eaux du fleuve, ils devront faire l'objet d'une Convention spéciale entre les deux Gouvernements Riverains, sans préjudice des stipulations de l'Article LV du Traité de Berlin, qui remet à la Commission Européenne du Danube, assistée de délégués des Etats riverains, l'élaboration des règlements de navigation, de police fluviale, et de surveillance depuis les Portes de Fer jusqu'à Galatz.

Cette convention déterminera les principes sur lesquels s'appuiera à l'avenir la propriété des alluvions et celle des îles qui pourraient se former dans le lit du fleuve.

Elle énumérera les travaux dans le lit ou sur les bords du fleuve, qui étant de nature à déterminer un déplacement ultérieur du thalweg, ne pourront être exécutés que du consentement unanime des deux Gouvernements Riverains.

Art. 6. La Mer Noire forme la limite est de la Bulgarie.

2. *Frontière entre la Bulgarie et la Turquie (Macédoine).*

Art. 7. Du Manchou, point situé entre Sivri-Tach et Cadir-Tépé, où la frontière entre la Bulgarie et la Roumélie Orientale va, conformément à l'Acte du 14 Août dernier, rejoindre la crête principale du Rhodope marquée sur la Carte Autrichienne comme la limite de l'ancien Sandjak de Sophia la frontière méridionale de la Bulgarie, se dirigeant d'abord vers le sud, suit par la chaîne principale du Rhodope la ligne bien marquée du partage des eaux entre les bassins du Mesta-Karasu (Ropolnitza et Granitchar) d'un côté et de l'Iskor de l'autre, par Routchkaia-Tchal et Nalbant ; à hauteur de Kourdjalik, elle prend la direction de l'ouest par Tchabirna, et Demir-Kapila (Demir-Kapou) jusqu'à Kadinitza-Gora (à peu près le Kadimezar-Balkan de la Carte Autrichienne), où elle s'infléchit vers le sud-ouest, et par Kodja-Koritza-Gora elle atteint l'Ai-Gedik (sommet de la montagne au nord de la passe du même nom).

Là elle tourne de nouveau vers l'ouest et suivant la ligne de partage des eaux entre les bassins de la Rilska-Rieka et de la Bistritza-Rieka, affluents du Struma-Karasu, elle rencontre sur le contrefort de la Vodencia-Planina les sommets de Merdjik-Tépé, Kadiitza, Markovascala, Tzarev-Vrh, Mousovra, Derezlitza, Kirelo et Fetir. Elle laisse à la Bulgarie le Monastère de Rilo et les villages de Pastra, de Riloselo, et d'Istop, à la Turquie les villages de Bistritza et Dobrava et la ville de Djouma.

A 2,300 mètres au sud-est de Barakovo (Barakli), la frontière quitte la ligne de partage pour descendre vers la Rilska-Rieka par la crête bien accentuée du second contrefort à l'est de Barakova, au pied duquel elle s'engage dans un torrent desséché qui la mène à la rivière à 850 mètres en amont du pont de la chaussée. Cette ligne sépare à peu près le gros des possessions de Barakova laissé à la Turquie d'une part, et de Paraminovo (Paromin) laissé à la Bulgarie de l'autre.

La frontière descend ensuite le thalweg de la Rilska-Rieka jusqu'à son confluent avec la Struma, et tournant au nord remonte le cours de la Struma jusqu'a 600 mètres de ce confluent. Elle se dirige alors de nouveau à l'ouest dans le ravin qui sépare les villages de Tekia (Jelesnica) appartenant à la Bulgarie et de Boutchino (Bucinova) appartenant à la Turquie. Par la tête de ce ravin elle gagne deux mamelons rocheux et par ceux-ci le sommet Tchordak-Kamik ; puis elle continue par la crête de la Vlaïna, qui contourne le bassin de toutes les eaux tombant dans la Struma au sud de Boutchino ; ce bassin reste dans sa totalité avec les villages de Lisia, Drenova, Klissoura à la Turquie, le territoire de Froloch et de Tcherveritza reste au contraire à la Bulgarie.

Par la Gora-Ersekovitza et la Gora-Dirnberitza la frontière atteint ainsi la chaîne de Golema-Planina au sommet de Sinianova-Tchouka (correspondant au Gitka de la Carte Autrichienne). Sur cette chaîne, qui sépare les eaux de la Jelechnitza et celles du Sasa-Déré se déversant dans la Bregalnica, elle rencontre successivement la Gora-Planinatz, les maisons éparses de Vitren, le Stervij-Vrh, les sommets de Sivaja-Kobila, de Stibanitza, de Koutzoulinitza, de Jdropanitza, de Baltajnitza, et de Rouene, laissant au sud à la Turquie les villages de Kosevitza, de Mlashtitza et de Sasa.

Parvenue à Rouene, la frontière descend, toujours dans une direction générale du sud-est au nord-ouest, vers la route de Kustendil à Egri-Palanka, par la ligne de partage entre les eaux de la Lepnitza d'une part, et celles de la Kriva-Rieka affluent de l'Egri-Déré de l'autre ; elle y rencontre les sommets de Saka-Bachi, de Bojderitza et de Batchevitza.

Elle coupe la grande route précitée près de la karaourla de Déré-Bagdar, située sur le col 1247 de la Carte Autrichienne, se redresse davantage vers le nord, et poursuivant par la ligne de faîte, elle passe par les sommets de Mogiller, Sdranchover, Tirnova, Soutzrana, laissant à la Bulgarie les villages de Kamenitza, Guvochevo, Skakavitza, Ranitzi, Pekolnitza, Tcherven-Dol, Kopriva, Babechene, Tzerechnevo, et tout le bassin de la Pokriva-Rieka, avec les villages de Jeravino, Golesh, et Kammanitza. Les villages de Jedullo, Radolisko, Fourpatch, Medosh, Soursera, Luki, situés à l'ouest de la ligne restent à la Turquie,

Arrivée sur la Babina-Poljana, la ligne de démarcation passe par les sommets de Goulemij-Vrh-Gora, et Vilo-Kolo, laissant à la Bulgarie les villages de Doganitza et

Doukat, à la Turquie ceux de Proliesie et Tzerveni-Grad, et gagne ainsi à 4 kilom. au sud du Crni-Vrh la Gora-Pataritza, point de jonction des frontières Bulgaro-Turque, Turco-Serbe, et Serbo-Bulgare, aux sources de la Souga-Loubata à l'est et de l'Orlitchka à l'ouest.

Art. 8. La frontière entre le Manchou et la Gora-Pataritza est marquée sur un croquis à l'échelle de $\frac{1}{126000}$, dressé d'après les cartes Russes, et d'après les levés expédiés exécutés spécialement pour la Commission par les officiers Anglais, et qui sera annexé au présent Acte pour être consulté au besoin comme document explicatif.

Le croquis précité donne en outre la région située entre Teham-Kourou et Manchou, et complète ainsi le croquis annexé à l'Acte du 14 Août, relatif à la frontière entre la Bulgarie et la Roumélie Orientale.

3. *Frontière entre la Bulgarie et la Serbie.*

Art. 9. De la Gora-Pataritza, point de jonction des frontières Bulgaro-Turque, Turco-Serbe, et Serbo-Bulgare, jusqu'au Crni-Vrh, la frontière de la Bulgarie se confond exactement avec la ligne de partage des eaux, en passant par les sommets de Sessna-Kobila et de Koroudjak; elle a été tracée sur les lieux par la Commission Internationale, créée pour la délimitation de la Serbie, et comprenant avec les Délégués des Sept Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin le Représentant du Gouvernement Princier de Serbie. Cette ligne a été considérée par erreur par la dite Commission, comme partie de la frontière entre la Serbie et la Turquie.

Art. 10. Du Crni-Vrh jusqu'au point où elle retrouve l'ancienne limite orientale de la Principauté de Serbie, la frontière a été également tracée sur les lieux par la Commission de Délimitation de Serbie, et décrite par elle dans les termes suivants:—

"(No. 1.) Sur le sommet du Crni-Vrh, point de jonction des frontières Serbo-Turque, Serbo-Bulgare, et Bulgaro-Turque (Macédoine).

"De ce point la frontière Serbo-Bulgare longe les crêtes sur le partage exact des eaux, se dirigeant généralement vers le nord, traversant les hauteurs de Modrika (No. 2), de Bessna-Kobila (Nos. 12, 13, et 15, et reconnue par trois pico-roches formant des bornes naturelles), de Pashina-Livada (No. 39), de Prossenik (No. 57), et de Golemo-Ravnishte (No. 66). Elle passe aussi par les monticules Vlassinski-Kamen (No. 22 pierreux), Ougrinov-Kamen (No. 32 pierreux), et Metchid (No. 72 pierreux, borne naturelle). Et elle laisse à la Serbie les villages de Kriva-Veia, Kravarnak, Novo-Selo, et Ravna-Reka, laissant à la Bulgarie ceux de Moussoulj et de Rjana.

"Du No. 72 la frontière, toujours sur le partage des eaux, descend sur l'ensellement (No. 74) pour monter sur les hauteurs de Vrshnik (No. 76) et Golema-Tchouka (No. 83). De là elle longe la crête, laissant à gauche le Mont-Streser (qui ne se trouve pas sur le partage des eaux). Du point (No. 89) elle tourne à droite pour descendre les pentes jusqu'au monticule Vilo-Kolo (No. 100).

"On n'a pu fixer sur le terrain la Mesid-Planina du Traité.

"De Vilo-Kolo la frontière suit généralement une direction nord-est sur le partage des eaux, laissant à droite le Mont Medjol, le Mont Golemi-Vrh, et le Mont Liayc-Boukve, pour traverser le Debeli-Rid (No. 112), le Belo-Kamenie (un monticule pierreux No. 133), et le Pandjin-Grob (une hauteur prominente d'où on voit pour la première fois les marais de la Vlassina Reka-Blato No. 144). Le village de Vrla-Reka est laissé à la Serbie, celui de Stambulüska-Muhalat à la Bulgarie.

"Du Pandjin-Grob la frontière longe les crêtes par Mont Pleshevats et Mont Stoudentz, et ensuite suit les prairies Douga-Poliana et Tishina-Poliana, traversant une ancienne mine délaissée entre Poteaux Nos. 182 et 184, et les Monts Miliu Rid (No. 194), et Bukova-Glava (No. 204). A gauche se trouve le marais de la Vlassina-Reka (Blato) et les villages de Savinats, Skela, et Vlassina.

"Afin de contourner une partie de ce dernier village qui se trouve coupé par le partage des eaux, la frontière arrivant à une autre mine délaissée (No. 214) tourne à droite et longe le premier ruisseau jusqu'au No. 224 près d'un vieux moulin Dvorishta-Vodenitza. Elle remonte ensuite près d'un autre petit ravin pour retrouver le partage des eaux au No. 231 situé près d'un bois et sur la route.

"La frontière continue à longer le partage des eaux sur le terrain onduleux et nommé pour la plupart Plateau-Saraïa, passant le monticule pierreux Mrharitza No. 256), jusqu'au pied de la montagne en face Mont Plana vers No. 271. Elle monte les pentes de cette montagne laissant le sommet à la Serbie, et se tourne vers la droite (No. 278) pour traverser les hauteurs du Mont Gramada. On n'a pu constater la position exacte du Mont Gacina, Grna-Trava, Darkovska, et Drainica.

"Du Poteau No. 278 la frontière prend une direction générale vers le nord-est, et du Poteau No. 287 pointe de triangulation du levé Russe, nommé Tourutsko-Kolibishte, elle

commence à descendre suivant le partage des eaux vers un bas ensellement où se trouve le village de Preslap. Pour y arriver la ligne de la frontière forme un angle aigu à Mont Grosnatovsko Plandishte (No. 297) et traverse un monticule pierreux (No. 301) et un autre du même genre couvert de bois Rajshtev-Saj (No. 308).

"Arrivée à l'ensellement de Preslap (Poteau No. 1) la frontière monte les hauteurs de Stamenov-Grob (No. 9) sur des pentes assez raides, au sommet desquelles se trouve un terrain couvert de broussailles et elle longe ces crêtes traversant le Roudinski-Rid (No. 17) le Karadjev-Kamen (No. 26, une haute pointe rocheuse) et le Peshtchana-Thouka (No. 28, qui ressemble au No. 26).

"A droite il y a toujours la Vallée de la Golema-Reka, et à gauche les vallées sont généralement profondes et fortement boisées.

"Du Poteau No. 28 la ligne de la frontière tourne à droite se dirigeant généralement vers le nord pour descendre sur l'ensellement près du village de Ranilug (lequel est laissé à la Bulgarie); elle traverse la route à ce village, monte sur le grand rocher Zdravtchi-Kamen (No. 37) et ensuite elle parcourt les crêtes escarpées du Mont Pipel, et du Shterbi Kamen, arivant à la hauteur de Presecn (No. 44). De là elle descend sur les basses crêtes ondulcuses arrivant à Daschani Kladenatz où se trouvent trois maisonnettes, dont deux sont laissées à la Bulgarie et une à la Serbie.

"La ligne de frontière ensuite continue les mêmes crêtes strictement sur le partage des eaux qui sont pour la plupart fortement boisées, traversant le Rakitski-Rid, le Mont Dasbine, le Prosetcheni-Kamen, le Mont Batchcovdeo (No. 108), le Tsrvena-Yabouka-Kamen (No. 123 et 124 une hauteur rocheuse avec les pentes vers le sud très-raides), le Tsrni-Vrk (No. 141) jusqu'au Mali-Tsrni-Vrh (No. 156).

"De cette hauteur on tourne à droite et l'on descend le contrefort entre les rivières Bissazi et Prosetcheni pour aboutir sur l'ensellement près du village de Preseka (No. 198).

"Du No. 198 la frontière suit près d'un chemin jusqu'au No. 201, qui se trouve à la source du premier petit cours d'eau qui tombe vers la droite de l'ensellement de Preseka. Elle longe à peu près ce cours d'eau jusqu'au No. 204 où commence à monter un autre petit ravinet qui commence au No. 206. Par ce tracé une portion du village de Preseka reste à la Serbie et l'autre à la Bulgarie.

"Du No. 206 la frontière suit de nouveau le partage des eaux traversant le Mont Kitka (No. 246), Golema-Glava (une hauteur rocheuse (No. 259), Mont Vrtop (No. 294) jusqu'au sommet du Mont Regnosa (une montagne très-rocheuse et très-escarpée). De Golema-Glava le terrain est excessivement raboteux et pierreux; à droite des crêtes se trouve une profonde vallée, dans laquelle est situé le village de Kossovrano; à gauche près de Regnosa il y a plusieurs cuvettes naturelles dans les rochers.

"La ligne de frontière longe les crêtes du Mont Regnosa jusqu'au No. 347. De là elle tourne à droite pour descendre sur un ensellement en prairie (No. 365 Raitchinitza), laissant à la Serbie tout le Stol. De là elle remonte sur la hauteur de Toumba (No. 369) et parcourt les crêtes ondulcuses vers le village de Tserevdol. De l'ensellement (No. 365) la direction générale de la frontière est vers l'est.

"Arrivée à l'ensellement près de Tserevdol (No. 416), village qui reste à la Serbie, la ligne de frontière monte sur les hauteurs rocheuses au-dessus de Tserevdol (Nos. 92, 89). De là elle traverse les hauteurs No. 86, Dreznia (No. 81), Mrasnitza, Berendel (No. 76) et Gradiste-Kamen (No. 67), laissant à la Bulgarie le village de Vlasi et à la Serbie celui de Borovichi. De la hauteur de Gradiste-Kamen, la frontière est tirée en ligne droite à la hauteur pierreuse de Drajana-Vrh (No. 63), et de là elle se tourne à droite pour traverser le Pisan-Kamen (No. 60). Ensuite elle parcourt la crête d'un contrefort pour arriver à la Soukovska-Reka, qu'elle traverse à 660 mètres (mesurés en ligne droite) en aval de l'embouchure du ruisseau de Derguia-Gornia.

"La frontière traverse la Rivière Soukovska à peu près perpendiculairement au courant et se trouve marquée par un arbre sur la rive droite (No. 45). De là elle monte la hauteur en face jusqu'au monticule Berovitza (No. 37), qui se trouve près de la route de Pirot à Trn, et la direction magnétique entre les Poteaux No. 45 et No. 37 est à peu près 87°.

"Du No. 37 la frontière arrive à la route, et la suit (s'écartant d'elle un peu entre Nos. 35 et 32) jusqu'au No. 27. La route reste à la Serbie. No. 27 est placé sur un petit ensellement à la tête d'une valée boisée; une croix se trouve à peu près 250 mètres distant vers laquelle l'angle magnétique est 234° 30'. Cette croix reste à la Bulgarie. Du No. 27 on traverse la route et contourne le village de Planinitza, pour le laisser à la Serbie, en quittant à ce propos le partage des eaux jusqu'au No. 21. De là elle suit cette ligne naturelle traversant la hauteur prominente et pierreuse de Kostresh (No. 14) et elle descend le contrefort qui amène près de Goïndol, lequel reste à la Bulgarie. Le village de Teherendol reste à la Serbie. Du No. 6 situé près du village de Goïndol la frontière

tourne un peu à gauche pour arriver à la route de Pirot à Sophia (No. 1). L'angle magnétique entre le No. 5 et le No. 1 est à peu près 86° 30'.

"No. 1 sur la route de Pirot à Sophia, où la frontière la traverse, est situé à une distance de 1,326 mètres mesurés du Han Segusa (Jeloucha) sur la route même et à 510 mètres (mesurés en ligne droite) de l'endroit où la chaussée est coupée par le ruisseau de Segusa.

"De cet endroit la frontière est tracée en ligne droite, vers un point un peu à gauche de la hauteur (No. 47) sur le Vidlic-Planina qui est la plus élevée et qui se trouve entre le village de Rjana et celui de Slavinia. La direction magnétique de cette ligne est à peu près 30°, elle laisse à la Serbie les villages de Tchiniglovtsi et d'Obrenovi, et à la Bulgarie ceux de Peterlasch et de Odorovtsi. Comme la ligne droite traverse le village de Paskaskia-Milkovátzi, la frontière s'écarte de cette ligne entre les Poteaux Nos. 14 et 15, en suivant le thalweg du petit cours d'eau, et d'une vallée sèche qui forme sa continuation.

"Du No. 47 la frontière suit une ligne droite au point pris pour le Mont Radocina (No. 1), 1,500 mètres au nord-ouest du sommet du Mont Srbrena sur les crêtes des Kodja-Balkans et indiqué dans la nature par un petit tumulus. Ce point aussi est fixé par les relèvements magnétiques qui suivent: au sommet de Kamara 95°; au sommet de Srbrena 120° 30'; au Crni-Vrh 192°; au Youssoupoff-Kamen 242°; à Tri-Chuki 323° 30'. Cette ligne traverse le Mont Skrivena, et laisse à la Bulgarie les villages de Slavinia, de Braïkovtsi, de Kamenitsa et de Senokos, et à la Serbie celui de Rjana et de Rossomatch. La direction magnétique de cette ligne est à peu près 70°. La frontière dévie de cette ligne près de Slavinia. Arrivée aux crêtes des rochers du Vidlic (No. 51) elle tourne vers la gauche pour traverser la Vissotcha-Reka au No. 53, elle remonte les pentes vis-à-vis contournant la plupart des champs appartenant au village de Slavinia par une ligne distante de 300 à 350 mètres ou-dessus de la route à Pirot, jusqu'à un petit monticule cultivé (No. 58).

"Arrivée au tumulus pris comme le Mont Radocina, la frontière tourne vers la gauche et suit strictement le partage des eaux sur les crêtes des Kodja et des Ciprovec-Balkans, traversant les Monts Mala-Poliana, Dobroïoutvo, Slop, Souvitchnitsa, Vrtop, Dabishin, Tri-Kladientsa, Tri-Tchouka, Vraja-Glava, Olovish, Golema-Tchouka, Martinova-Tchouka, Valouje, Midjor, Kozia-Gorvina, Medjova, Sini-Vrh, et Debeli-Ert. La direction générale de cette ligne est nord-ouest.

"De là, la frontière suivant à peu près la même direction longe le partage des eaux à travers la passe de St. Nicolas, coupant toutes les redoutes qui se trouvent sur les hauteurs au nord et au sud de la passe, mais faisant un tout petit détour pour contourner un tombeau Serbe près de la route, lequel est laissé à la Serbie (No. 30). La frontière alors parcourt les crêtes traversant le Mont Elja et le Mont Golash pour arriver sur le partage des eaux au Poteau No. 62, Joanova-Livada, où elle rencontre la vieille frontière. Ce point No. 62 est à peu près à 10 kilom. de Koula-Smiljevo-Chuka."

Art. 11. Du point déterminé par la Commission Internationale pour la Délimitation de la Serbie, sur la Joanova-Livada à 10 kilom. environ de la Kula-Smiljova-Cuka (Poteau No. 62), la frontière entre la Bulgarie et la Serbie se confond avec l'ancienne limite orientale de la Principauté de Serbie; par les Balkans et le Timok, elle va rejoindre le thalweg du Danube au confluent du Timok dans ce fleuve, près de Rakovitza.

Art. 12. Il appartiendra aux parties intéressées de prendre d'un commun accord telles mesures qu'elles croiront utiles pour établir des marques de bornage sur les diverses frontières, conformément au tracé arrêté par la Commission.

Art. 13. Il leur appartiendra également de régler directement ou après entente réciproque, pour les maintenir ou les transformer par des compensations équivalents, les droits de pacage ou d'usage dans les bois que pourraient avoir, par écrits, par possession, ou par prescription, certaines communes frontières sur des territoires attribués par le présent acte à un État, une Principauté, ou province voisine.

Il sera d'ailleurs apporté dans les lois et règlements de douane à intervenir tous les tempéraments de nature à ménager les intérêts économiques des populations frontières.

Conformément aux stipulations précises du Traité de Berlin, les droits de propriété des particuliers sur des immeubles situés dans un Etat, une Principauté, ou province autre que celui ou celle de leur résidence, demeurent intacts.

Art. 14. Le présent Acte contenant quatorze Articles et établi, avec le croquis annexe indiqué à l'Article 8, en sept expéditions reconnues identiques, une pour chaque Puissance représentée dans la Commission de Délimitation, a été signé par tous les Commissaires, en vertu de leurs pouvoirs et instructions.

Il sera soumis immédiatement à l'approbation des Gouvernements de l'Allemagne, de

l'Autriche-Hongrie, de la France, de la Grande Bretagne, de l'Italie, de la Russie, et de la Turquie, par leurs Commissaires respectifs, et porté ensuite à la connaissance des parties intéressées pour recevoir son exécution.

Fait à Constantinople, le 20 Septembre, 1879.

Annexe No 1.

Liste des Iles reconnues appartenir aux provinces Ottomanes situées sur la rive droite du Danube et à la Principauté de Valachie par le Protocole de la Commission, chargée de déterminer, conformément au Traité d'Andrinople, la frontière des Principautés de Moldavie et de Valachie par le chenal du fleuve.

(Extrait.)

I.—*Aux Provinces Ottomanes situées sur la rive droite du Danube.*

8. Les deux Iles Salatoria.
9. L'Ilot Kotova.
10. L'Ile de Sitchan.
11. L'Ilot Tchifte, No. 1.
12. „ „ No. 2.
13. L'Ile petite Iscombria.
14. „ grande „
15. L'Ilot Petrichte avec deux autres ilots du même nom.
16. L'Ile de Mourtaza.
17. „ d'Ebich aga.
18. L'Ilot Kutchuk Ada.
19. „ Bogoti.
20. „ Isoun Ibrahim.
21. L'Ile Kodoslui.
22. „ Salanorsa.
23. „ Papadia.
24. „ Somoritza.
25. L'Ilot Taouchan.
26. L'Ile de Baktché.
27. „ Eérikoum.
28. Magaritcha.
29. Bélena ou Beskout.
30. Tchenghéné.
31. L'Ile de Sistow.
32. „ Vardim.
33. „ Kobanek.
34. „ Bourgos.
35. „ Goulla.
36. „ Maratin.
37. „ Hisarlik.
38. L'Ilot Bikirli, No. 1.
39. „ „ No. 2.
40. „ „ No. 3.
41. „ „ No. 4.
42. L'Ile de Lahana dorogou, No. 1.
43. „ „ „ No. 2.
44. „ de Kossou.
45. „ Alepné.
46. „ Kargalik.
47. „ Kavan.
48. „ Ridvan.

II.—*A la Principauté de Valachie.*

8. L'Ile de Ghirlo.
9. „ de Tchetaté.
10. „ Kochava avec un ilot sans nom.
11. „ Golia.
12. „ Kalafata avec deux ilots sans nom.
13. „ Kinap.
14. „ Ak Kalé.
15. „ de Lom.
16. „ de Linova.
17. „ d'Aliman.
18. „ Kopantcha.
19. L'Ilot Draktchni.
20. L'Ile de Kom ou Pentégal.
21. „ sans nom.
22. Les deux Ilots Bechlikeuy.
23. L'Ile de Chélei ou Iskra.
24. „ Islaz.
25. „ Mahalé Komou.
26. „ Kourté.
27. „ Paul (Paolo Adasi).
28. „ Bourdgina.
29. „ Louta.
30. L'Ilot Dehli Moustafa.
31. L'Ile de Ostrov Mare.
32. „ de Batoum.
33. „ d'Iéni Kama.
34. „ Gcourgea, No. 1.
35. „ „ No. 2.
36. „ Mokan Oolouh.
37. „ Dalian Dorogou.
38. „ Flamounda.
39. „ Güzel Dgéléré.
40. L'Ilot Kanli Bogas Adasi.
41. L'Ile de Tourtoukai.
42. „ Vitrène ou Parlipou.
43. „ Hissarli ou Kieulou Ghioumrouk (Ostrov de Sousso).

Le Commissaire de Russie observe que l'on n'a fait figurer sur l'Annexe No. 1 que les noms des îles comprises entre l'ancienne frontière de Serbie et le point d'attache de la frontière Roumano-Bulgare choisi par la Commission à Pest de Silistrie. Les négociations

ouvertes par le Cabinet Impérial de St. Pétersbourg tendent à faire reporter ce point plus en aval; elles pourraient avoir une issue heureuse. Afin d'éviter dans ce cas toutes contestations sur la possession des îles en aval de Silistrie, il serait utile de spécifier d'une façon très-nette que les principes énoncés à l'Article 2 de l'Acte seront appliquées jusqu'à la frontière Roumano-Bulgare, quelqu'en soit le point extrême, et que la carte de délimitation de 1830 sera consultée, s'il y a lieu, pour la détermination de nouvelles enclaves. Le Commissaire de Russie propose, en conséquence, de voter la résolution suivante:—

"Dans le cas où les Gouvernements modifieraient le point de départ de la frontière Roumano-Bulgare à l'est de Silistrie, précédemment adopté par la majorité de la Commission, l'Article 2 continuerait à recevoir sa pleine et entière exécution jusqu'au méridien du nouveau point de départ choisi."

Tous les Commissaires donnent leur assentiment à cette proposition, qui est adoptée.

Son Excellence Tahir Pacha, prenant à son tour la parole, soumet à la Commission la proposition suivante:—

"Dans la séance du 28 Août, 1879, la Commission, après avoir reconnu sa compétence pour statuer sur la route militaire par le sud du Sandjak de Sophia, s'est occupée de la proposition faite à la Commission relativement au passage des troupes Ottomanes par la route Tatar-Bazardjik, Banja, Samakov, Dubnitza, Kustendil, Egri-Palanka avec embranchement de Dubnitza sur Djuma. Le vote sur cette proposition a été ajourné. La Commission touchant à la fin de ses travaux et ayant épuisé les questions qui lui étaient soumises, le Commissaire Ottoman demande que la Commission procède au vote sur la route proposée, afin d'achever ses travaux."

M. le Colonel Baron de Ripp, après avoir rappelé l'attitude prise par lui dans une délibération précédente (Protocole No. 32, p. 9), observe que la Commission, en inscrivant à l'ordre du jour de la présente séance la question de la route militaire, a par cela même contracté l'engagement d'épuiser le sujet. Il estime donc que le Commissaire Ottoman devrait être pleinement rassuré sur les intentions de ses collègues, et que prenant en considération l'impossibilité actuelle d'obtenir du Commissaire Russe l'apposition d'une signature au bas d'un acte, qui désignerait la route visée par le Protocole No. 17 du Congrès, il pourrait ne pas insister sur sa demande de priorité.

M. le Commandant Lemoigne pense que l'introduction dans le corps de l'Acte d'un Article relatif à la route militaire pourrait faire laisser en suspens le règlement de toutes les autres questions, et que le nouvel instrument diplomatique aurait alors le sort de celui du 17 Décembre, 1878, qui attend actuellement encore la signature du Commissaire de Russie.

M. le Colonel Orero est d'avis que la question de procédure soulevée par le Commissaire Ottoman ne peut pas être assimilée à une question de principe. Son Excellence Tahir Pacha devrait donc, selon lui, s'incliner devant le vote de la majorité.

M. le Major de Wedel comprendrait une demande du Commissaire Ottoman tendant à l'introduction dans l'instrument diplomatique d'une clause relative à la route; mais une telle proposition n'ayant pas été faite, il ne s'explique pas le mobile auquel son Excellence Tahir Pacha obéit en réclamant la priorité d'une discussion.

Le Commissaire de Turquie répond que le dépôt d'une proposition analogue à celle qui vient d'être indiquée serait pour le moment prématuré; il demande en premier lieu à la Commission de vouloir bien désigner la route; il verra ensuite ce qu'il lui convient de faire pour la défense des intérêts de l'Empire Ottoman. Peut-être alors se résoudra-t-il à proposer l'introduction dans l'Acte d'une décision déjà acquise.

M. le Général Hamley manifeste son intention de combattre cette nouvelle proposition, si elle venait à se produire; aussi désire-t-il qu'il soit procédé incontinent à la signature de l'Acte préparé.

Le Commissaire de Turquie déclare alors que ses instructions lui prescrivent de ne signer l'Acte qu'après le parfait épuisement de la discussion relative à la route militaire. Il insiste donc pour le règlement immédiat de cette question.

Le Président met aux voix la proposition du Commissaire Ottoman.

Le Commissaire d'Allemagne juge plus pratique de recourir à un Acte spécial, pour définir la route visée par le Protocole No. 17 du Congrès; il repousse donc la proposition. Le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie la repousse également pour raison d'inopportunité. Le Commissaire de France est d'avis de procéder à la signature de l'Acte. Les Commissaires de Grande Bretagne et d'Italie entendent n'apporter aucune modification à l'ordre du jour. Le Commissaire de Russie trouve plus opportun de procéder à la signature de l'Acte.

La proposition est donc repoussée par 6 voix.

M. le Colonel de Ripp remarque que les efforts constants de la Commission ont tendu

à rédiger un Acte, qui pût être signé par tous les Commissaires. Si son Excellence Tahir Pacha persistait dans son refus, ce but serait manqué, et toutes les peines et les labeurs de la Commission perdues. Afin d'éviter qu'il soit ainsi, et pour obtenir la signature du Commissaire Ottoman, M. le Colonel de Ripp propose de décider que la question de la route militaire fera l'objet d'un Acte officiel, ou d'une pièce équivalente, et il demande à son Excellence Tahir Pacha, si l'adoption d'une semblable résolution serait pour lui un gage suffisant.

Le Commissaire Ottoman répond qu'il ne pourrait prendre d'engagement formel sans consulter son Gouvernement.

M. le Général Hamley propose alors de procéder à la signature de l'Acte, malgré le refus du Commissaire de Turquie,

Les six Commissaires d'Allemagne, d'Autriche-Hongrie, de France, de Grande Bretagne, d'Italie, et de Russie, signent l'Acte et ses deux Annexes, et apposent leur sceau au bas de l'Acte et sur la première feuille du croquis donnant la rectification de la frontière de l'ancien Sandjak de Sophia, qui constitue l'Annexe No. 2.

A la demande du *Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie*, l'Acte et ses Annexes sont laissés ouverts, afin de recevoir ultérieurement la signature du Commissaire de Turquie.

Le Président invite ensuite la Commission à poursuivre la discussion de son ordre du jour.

M. le Colonel Bogolubow maintient l'attitude prise par lui dans les précédentes délibérations relatives à la route militaire, nonobstant le dépôt qu'il a fait d'un mémoire sur l'état de la vicinalité dans la Macédoine, ce mémoire étant simplement destiné à l'instruction personnelle de ses collègues. Il déclare donc cesser d'assister officiellement à la séance.

(Signé) A. BOGOLUBOW.

Le Président demande à la Commission si elle entend s'arrêter devant l'opposition du Commissaire de Russie.

La majorité se décide à poursuivre le débat.

M. le Général Hamley exprime son sentiment sur le mémoire du Colonel Bogolubow. Le Protocole No. 17 du Congrès ayant accordé à la Turquie une route militaire, il a recherché un chemin de cette nature parmi toutes les voies de communication indiquées par le dit mémoire; il n'en a trouvé aucun.

M. le Colonel de Ripp déclare persévérer dans les idées qu'il a précédemment exprimées sur le sujet. Le mémoire de Colonel Bogolubow contient quelques indications sur la possibilité de construire une route en territoire Turc, mais il ne révèle l'existence d'aucune route militaire. Le Congrès avait donc sainement apprécié la situation, quand il chargeait la Commission de désigner une route militaire à travers la partie méridionale du Sandjak de Sophia. Cette route n'est autre que celle demandée par le Commissaire de Turquie.

Son Excellence Tahir Pacha observe que toutes les voies de communication énumérées dans le mémoire de Colonel Bogolubow sont le plus souvent de simples sentiers, plus ou moins impraticables selon la saison, et plus ou moins frayés. Il formule dans les termes suivants sa proposition:—

"La voie dont la Sublime Porte aura conformément aux intentions du Congrès, exprimées dans son Protocole No. 17, le droit de se servir à travers la Bulgarie pour transporter ses troupes, munitions, et approvisionnements dans les provinces situées à l'ouest et au sud-ouest de la Principauté de Bulgarie, et *vice versâ*, sera la grande-route se dirigeant de Tatar-Bazardjik et Banja par Samakov et Dubnitza, sur Egri-Palanka par Kustendil, et sur Djouma par Barakli."

Le Président met aux voix cette proposition.

Les Commissaires d'Autriche-Hongrie, de Grande Bretagne, et de Turquie votent en sa faveur. Le Commissaire d'Allemagne réserve son vote jusqu'au reçu des instructions qu'il va solliciter. Le Commissaire d'Italie se réserve, en déclarant son intention de se rallier ultérieurement à la majorité. Le Commissaire de France s'abstient en vertu de ses instructions. Le Commissaire de Russie ne prend pas part au vote.

La proposition ne réunit donc pas la majorité des voix.

Son Excellence Tahir Pacha propose alors qu'il soit procédé à un nouveau vote, quand les Commissaires d'Allemagne et d'Italie seront en état d'y participer.

M. le Colonel de Ripp demande à son tour au Commissaire Ottoman si, en présence des résultats dès à présent acquis, il ne se croirait pas autorisé à signer l'Acte.

Son Excellence Tahir Pacha répond que la question de la route reste irrésolue, et qu'il ne peut par suite que persévérer dans son refus de signature.

La Commission décide qu'elle poursuivra la discussion dans une prochaine séance.

Le Commandant Lemoyne, en raison de son état de santé, prie ses collègues de vouloir bien la fixer à une date très-rapprochée.

La Commission se sépare à 4 heures et demie, en s'ajournant au Lundi, 22 Septembre.

(Signé) WEDEL.
RIPP.
J. V. LEMOYNE.
E. B. HAMLEY.
B. ORERO.
M. TAHIR.

Certifié conforme à l'original :
(Signé) P. PODSTAWSKI.
G. MARMIER.
F. VICINO-PALLAVICINO.
N. SCHNEUR.
SIMON PAPASIAN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 197.

Prôtocole No. 34.—*Séance tenue à Constantinople, à l'Hôtel de la Municipalité du 6e Cercle, le* 22 *Septembre*, 1879.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Major Comte Wedel.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Colonel Baron de Ripp,
M. le Capitaine Podstawski.

Pour la France—
M. le Commandant Lemoyne,
M. le Capitaine Marmier.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Major-Général Hamley,
M. le Major Ardagh,
M. le Capitaine Jones.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Orero,
M. le Capitaine Vicino-Pallavicino.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Bogolubow,
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Schneur.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence le Général Tahir Pacha.
Simon Effendi (Papasian),
Le Commandant Hassan Bey.

LA séance est ouverte à 10 heures.

Le Protocole No. 33 est lu et adopté par six Commissaires, M. le Colonel Bogolubow en signe seulement la première partie.

Le Président demande aux Commissaires d'Allemagne et d'Italie s'ils sont maintenant en état de se prononcer dans la question de la route militaire.

Le Commissaire de Russie renouvelle sa déclaration d'incompétence, et la motive par l'absence de Représentants des autorités locales Bulgares. Il n'assistera donc pas officiellement à la séance.

Le Commissaire d'Allemagne répond à la question posée par le Président, qu'il n'a pas encore reçu d'instructions.

M. le Colonel Orero sollicite une suspension de la séance, afin de pouvoir déchiffrer une dépêche de son Gouvernement, qui peut déterminer son vote.

Avant de suspendre la séance, le Président invite de nouveau le Commissaire Ottoman à signer l'Acte et ses Annexes. Son Excellence Tahir Pacha, se rendant aux

instances de plusieurs de ses collègues, de crainte de paraître vouloir exercer une pression sur les délibérations de la Commission, se décide à apposer sa signature sur la minute et les sept exemplaires de l'Acte et de ses Annexes, qui sont ensuite remis aux Commissaires.

La séance est suspendue à midi pour être reprise à 1 heure.

La Commission procède alors à un nouveau vote sur la question de la route militaire.

Le Commissaire d'Allemagne se réserve jusqu'au reçu des instructions qu'il a sollicitées.

Le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie estime que la Commission ne saurait se passer de l'avis du Représentant de l'Allemagne. Il demande donc l'ajournement du vote, jusqu'au moment où M. le Comte de Wedel pourra se prononcer.

Le Président observe que l'on ne saurait greffer ainsi une proposition sur une autre. Il invite ses collègues à donner leur opinion sur la question posée, quitte à discuter ensuite, s'il y a lieu, la nouvelle proposition du Colonel de Ripp.

Le vote est repris et de nouveau interrompu sur la déclaration faite par M. le Colonel Orero, qu'il persévérera dans sa réserve, tant qu'il n'aura pas été statué sur la proposition d'ajournement.

Celle-ci est alors mise en discussion.

M. le Général Hamley exprime le désir de connaître l'opinion du Commissaire Ottoman, à laquelle il entend se rallier.

Son Excellence Tahir Pacha répond qu'il attache un très-grand prix au vote du Commissaire d'Allemagne, et qu'il est favorable à la proposition.

L'ajournement est décidé par 4 voix—celles des Commissaires d'Autriche-Hongrie, de Grande Bretagne, d'Italie, et de Turquie. Les Commissaires d'Allemagne et de France s'abstiennent. Le Commissaire de Russie ne prend pas part au vote.

Le Commissaire d'Italie appelle alors l'attention de ses collègues sur l'utilité de compléter par certaines prescriptions la résolution que pourrait prendre la Commission au sujet de la route militaire. Mais la Commission pense qu'il serait prématuré d'aborder en ce moment l'examen de cette question.

M. le Général Hamley demande alors à la Commission que les cartes Russes utilisées pour la délimitation soient extraites des archives pour lui être communiquées.

Le Président lui répond que le Commissaire de Russie l'a prié de lui restituer les cartes mises par lui en unique exemplaire à la disposition de la Commission. Cette démarche n'a pas été ignorée des Commissaires ; en présence du silence gardé par eux, le Président s'est cru autorisé à se rendre au désir du Colonel Bogolubow. La question étant maintenant soulevée en séance, il appartient à la Commission de décider s'il y a lieu de demander la réintégration dans les archives des pièces qui en ont été retirées.

M. le Colonel Bogolubow n'admet pas qu'on puisse poser pareille question. Il maintient son droit de propriété sur les cartes, ayant entendu simplement mettre celles-ci à la disposition de la Commission pour le cours de ses travaux.

M. le Général Hamley estime que, pour l'intelligence de certains détails de l'Annexe No. II, il pourrait être utile de recourir aux cartes, sur lesquelles la Commission a travaillé.

M. le Colonel de Ripp croit que le Colonel Bogolubow doit être laissé juge des conditions mises mentalement par lui à la communication des cartes Russes.

M. le Comte de Wedel partage cet avis : tout au plus pourrait-on, selon lui, réclamer avec quelque fondement le dépôt aux archives des levés faits en territoire Turc par les topographes Russes pour le service de la Commission.

M. le Colonel Orero croit plus qu'utile qu'aucune pièce ne soit distraite des archives.

M. le Colonel de Ripp reconnaît cette très-grande utilité ; il n'admet pas cependent qu'on puisse faire au Colonel Bogolubow une obligation de l'abandon de ses cartes. Il ne peut, pour sa part, que le prier de remplacer ultérieurement par des copies les dessins qu'il aurait retirés des archives.

MM. le Major de Wedel et le *Colonel Orero* joignent leurs instances à celles du Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie, et proposent avec lui à leurs collègues de prendre la résolution suivante :

"La Commission, reconnaissant l'utilité de maintenir complètes les archives de la Commission, prie M. le Colonel Bogolubow de vouloir bien, aussitôt qu'il aura pu en faire prendre copie, déposer aux archives les dessins originaux qui ont servi au travail de la délimitation."

M. le Colonel Bogolubow dit qu'il était décidé à repousser une réclamation non fondée, mais qu'il acceptera l'expression précédente du désir de ses collègues.

L'incident est clos par l'adoption à l'unanimité de la résolution ci-dessus, et par la promesse que fait M. le Colonel Bogolubow de compléter les archives de la Commission.

M. le Général Hamley dépose de son côté aux archives les cartes dressées par les officiers Anglais.

La Commission se sépare à 2 heures 15 minutes, en laissant à son Président le soin de la convoquer, quand le Commissaire d'Allemagne aura reçu ses instructions.

(Signé) WEDEL.
RIPP.
J. V. LEMOYNE.
E. B. HAMLEY.
B. ORERO.
M. TAHIR.

Signé, pour la troisième partie du présent Protocole:
A. BOGOLUBOW.

Certifié conforme à l'original:
(Signé) PODSTAWSKI.
G. MARMIER.
F. VICINO-PALLAVICINO.
N. SCHNEUR.
SIMON PAPASIAN.

Inclosure 3 in No. 197.

Protocole No. 35.—Séance tenue à Constantinople, à l'Hôtel de la Municipalité du 6e Cercle, le 24 Septembre, 1879.

Étaient présents:

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Major Comte Wedel.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Colonel Baron de Ripp,
M. le Capitaine Podstawski.

Pour la France—
M. le Commandant Lemoyne,
M. le Capitaine Marmier.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Major-Général Hamley.
M. le Capitaine Jones.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Orero,
M. le Capitaine Vicino-Pallavicino.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Bogolubow,
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Schneur.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence le Général Tahir Pacha,
Simon Effendi (Papasian).

LA séance est ouverte à 10 heures.

Le Protocole No. 34 est lu et adopté dans son entier par six Commissaires, et seulement dans sa dernière partie (incident des cartes), par M. le Colonel Bogolubow.

Le Président invite le Commissaire d'Allemagne à donner son vote dans la question de la route militaire.

M. le Colonel Bogolubow renouvelle dans les mêmes termes la déclaration qu'il a faite en tête du Protocole No. 34.

M. le Comte Wedel, répondant à la question posée par le Président, dit que bien qu'il ait reçu ses instructions, il doit momentanément se réserver.

M. le Colonel de Ripp, espérant qu'une décision sortira de la nouvelle épreuve tentée, tient, en présence de l'attitude gardée durant toute la discussion par le Commissaire de Russie, à motiver son vote. Le Colonel Bogolubow a allégué contre l'instance introduite devant la Commission l'omission dans le texte du Traité d'une stipulation conforme à la décision insérée dans le Protocole No. 17 du Congrès; il a basé surtout son opposition sur la phrase suivante du Protocole No. 17: "les détails du tracé (de la route) seront renvoyés aux négociations de la Commission Européenne avec les autorités locales." Constatant que la Commission n'était pas entrée en pourparlers à ce sujet avec lesdites autorités, il a conclu à la nullité d'une décision qui interviendrait dans de telles conditions, et il s'est isolé de la Commission pour rester dans les limites de sa compétence. La gravité de cette détermination n'a pas échappé à M. le Colonel de Ripp; aussi a-t-il tenu à se livrer à des investigations pour dissiper tous les doutes qui pouvaient subsister après la lecture du Protocole No. 17, et pour éclaircir notamment la signification du terme employé de "négociations." Il a trouvé les explications qu'il cherchait dans le texte du Protocole No. 19, auquel il n'a pas été fait allusion dans les précédentes discussions. Dans la dix-neuvième séance du Congrès, le Troisième Plénipotentiaire de France, Rapporteur de la Commission de Rédaction, après avoir proposé et obtenu la suppression du premier alinéa du paragraphe No. 3 de l'Article II, impliquant pour les troupes et convois Bulgares le libre passage par la route de Sophia à Widdin, déclara que l'accord n'avait pu s'établir au sein de la Commission sur la route militaire au travers du territoire sud du Sandjak de Sophia. Les divergences d'opinion portaient uniquement sur la désignation de la route; le droit concédé au Protocole No. 17 n'était pas remis en discussion, ainsi qu'il appert de l'alinéa suivant du Protocole:

"A la suite d'observations présentées par le Comte de Launay, Lord Salisbury et le Comte Schouvaloff, le Congrès décide que le paragraphe 3 de l'Article V du Projet de Traité sera supprimé, les Plénipotentiaires de Russie ayant d'ailleurs déclaré que les obligations qu'ils ont acceptées au Protocole No. 17 au sujet de la route militaire accordée à la Turquie conservent toute leur valeur."

Ainsi l'on ne saurait arguer du silence que garde le Traité à l'égard de la route militaire, pour mettre en doute la décision favorable du Congrès. La signification du terme "négociations avec les autorités locales," invoqué à diverses reprises par le Commissaire de Russie, doit être également demandée à l'alinéa suivant du Protocole No. 19:

"Le Président regarde qu'il est dangereux de délimiter dans un Article de Traité une route militaire sur un terrain peu connu et sur une carte dont l'exactitude ne peut pas être absolue. Cette délimitation pourrait être fâcheuse pour ceux mêmes qui peuvent s'en servir; Son Altesse Sérénissime relit le passage du Protocole No. 17 où se trouve le résumé de la discussion et pense que, conformément aux décisions prises alors par le Congrès, le tracé doit être renvoyé aux négociations sur place."

Il ressort de là surabondamment que le Congrès avait entendu laisser à la Commission Européenne le soin de recueillir auprès des autorités locales tous les renseignements utiles sur le tracé de la route, sur son état de viabilité et d'entretien, sur les principales localités traversées par elle, &c. La Commission a fait plus que s'adresser aux autorités. L'une de ses délégations, dans laquelle six Puissances étaient représentées, s'est rendue sur les lieux, a parcouru la route dans toute sa longueur, a séjourné dans toutes les localités importantes, et s'est rendu compte de l'unité de solution que présente le problème qui lui était posé, et qui consistait à fixer le tracé d'une route militaire à travers le territoire sud de l'ancien Sandjak de Sophia. Peut-on faire un grief à la Commission d'avoir, en faisant plus que son devoir, rendu superflues les négociations avec les autorités locales? Car il ne pouvait évidemment s'agir de les consulter sur la convenance de faire traverser leurs villes et bourgades par une route militaire, emportant avec elle bien des charges et des incommodités; leur réponse ne pouvait être douteuse: chaque ville aurait manifesté le désir de voir la route passer loin de son propre territoire. S'il y avait eu deux tracés en présence, on n'aurait pas manqué d'ouvrir une enquête en vue de déterminer la voie la plus convenable à la fois pour les populations et pour la Turquie; mais la route est unique. Elle a été concédée à la Turquie par le Protocole No. 19 dans des termes décisifs, et la Commission a fait plus qu'entrer en négociations avec les autorités locales. Pour ces motifs, M. le Colonel de Ripp ne croit pas devoir s'arrêter devant l'opposition du Commissaire de Russie, et il vote en faveur de la proposition de son Excellence Tahir Pacha.

M. le Commissaire de France déclare persévérer dans son abstention.

M. le Général Hamley vote dans le même sens que le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie, et donne son entière adhésion aux idées qu'il a exprimées.

M. le Colonel Orero se prononce en faveur de la proposition, étant admis que le vote porte sur une question technique et nullement sur la question de fond.

Son Excellence Tahir Pacha vote en faveur de la proposition dont il est l'auteur, et déclare partager les idées développées par le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie.

M. le Comte de Wedel se rallie alors à la majorité, en acceptant les motifs donnés par son collègue d'Autriche-Hongrie.

La proposition de son Excellence Tahir Pacha est donc agréée par 5 voix, le Commissaire de France s'étant abstenu, et le Commissaire de Russie n'ayant pas pris part au vote.

M. le Colonel de Ripp, revenant ensuite sur une idée formulée au cours de la séance précédente par le Commissaire d'Italie, relit le passage suivant de l'Article X du Traité de San Stéfano :

"Afin d'éviter les difficultés et les malentendus dans l'application de ce droit, tout en garantissant les nécessités militaires de la Sublime Porte, un règlement spécial en établira les conditions dans l'espace de trois mois après la rectification du présent Acte, par une entente entre la Sublime Porte et l'Administration de Bulgarie."

Il estime qu'il convient de retenir une partie de cet Article et de compléter la résolution qui vient d'être prise par la phrase suivante :—

"Les conditions d'usage de la dite route seront réglées par une entente entre la Sublime Porte et le Gouvernement Princier de Bulgarie."

M. le Colonel Orero demande qu'on présente une énumération des dites conditions, telles que les communications à faire au Gouvernement Princier, l'intervalle de temps entre la transmission de l'avis et la mise en marche des colonnes de troupes et des convois, la force des uns et des autres, leur espacement, la désignation des lieux d'étapes. Il croit qu'on fournirait ainsi une base sûre aux négotiations entre les deux parties intéressées, dont l'une pourrait désirer laisser une porte ouverte à des contestations et à des difficultés.

M. le Colonel de Ripp pense au contraire que les deux parties ont un égal intérêt à définir nettement les conditions d'usage de la route militaire, et que la matière est suffisamment réglée par nombre de conventions antérieures ; il trouverait dangereux d'entrer dans une énumération de ces conditions, qui pourrait être incomplète.

M. le Colonel Orero n'insiste pas sur ses observations, qui seront relatées au Protocole, et se rallie à l'opinion de la majorité, qui est favorable à la proposition du Colonel de Ripp.

Le Président constate que toutes les questions à l'ordre du jour sont épuisées, mais que les Gouvernements n'ont pas encore donné leur approbation aux Actes arrêtés par la majorité de la Commission ; il propose donc de s'ajourner à une date indéterminée.

Avant de se séparer, *le Général Hamley* tient à remplir un devoir envers le Président et envers le Secrétariat, en les remerciant du zèle qu'ils ont déployé dans l'accomplissement de leurs importantes fonctions. Il est particulièrement reconnaissant au Président de l'habile et énergique impulsion qu'il a donnée à la marche des travaux, grâce à laquelle la Commission a pu triompher des nombreuses difficultés qui hérissaient sa tâche, et mener son œuvre rapidement à bon terme. Il pense que ses collègues de Turquie et de Russie s'associeront à cet hommage.

M. le Colonel Bogolubow regrette d'avoir été devancé dans l'expression de ses sentiments intimes et de ses remerciements à l'égard du Président et du Secrétariat. Il pense que la Commission est redevable au Président de la bonne direction maintenue généralement par lui aux débats, et au Secrétariat de la reproduction fidèle de ses délibérations, et il estime qu'il leur a fallu déployer beaucoup d'activité pour suffire à leur tâche.

Le Commissaire de Turquie et après lui les autres Commissaires s'associent à ces hommages.

M. le Commandant Lemoyne répond que lorsque ses collègues lui ont fait l'honneur de l'appeler à la Présidence, il hésita un moment à accepter d'assumer sur sa tête la direction des travaux. Il craignait en voyant toutes les difficultés accumulées sur la route de la Commission que la tâche ne fût au-dessus de ses forces. L'esprit de bonne volonté et de sage conciliation qui animait tous les Commissaires a plus que ces efforts contribué à aplanir les obstacles, et à amener une entente sur des sujets épineux. Tout en accueillant avec reconnaissance la déclaration de ses collègues, il tient à les remercier de l'aide qu'il a reçu de chacun d'eux, et à les assurer qu'il gardera toujours le meilleur souvenir du temps passé avec eux. C'est pour lui également un devoir de remercier tous ses collaborateurs, son adjoint le Capitaine Mornier, qui s'est principalement chargé de la rédaction des Protocoles, et les autres membres du Secrétariat qui l'ont assisté avec dévouement. Il demande enfin à la Commission de voter des remerciements au chef du pavillon photographique du Séraskiérat, Riza Bey, qui s'est consacré avec une grande activité à la reproduction des dessins annexés aux deux derniers Actes.

M. le Colonel de Ripp, au moment de se séparer, désire rendre hommage à la modération que le Commissaire de Russie a toujours observée dans la discussion, dans les cas mêmes où ses instructions étaient en opposition directe avec celles de ses collègues. Il veut également le remercier encore une fois non-seulement des cartes mises par lui à la disposition de la Commission,—qui ont singulièrement facilité sa tâche,—mais aussi de la façon habile dont il a su organiser le voyage d'exploration sur les confins de la Bulgarie dans toutes les parties occupées par les troupes Russes, faisant d'avance préparer des gîtes et des moyens de transport pour la Commission et tachant de faciliter sa marche par tous les moyens qui étaient à sa disposition. Il saisit l'occasion qui se présente à lui de rendre hommage au dévouement que la Commission a rencontré chez un agent du Gouvernement de la Roumélie Orientale, M. Tchitchekieff, qui s'est employé avec une grande énergie à assurer jusque dans les moindres détails l'exécution des mesures ordonnées par le Colonel Bogolubow. M. le Colonel de Ripp remercie donc du fond du cœur le Commissaire de Russie de tout ce qu'il a fait pour la Commission, et pense que tous ses collègues partagent ses sentiments.

(Marques unanimes d'adhésion.)

M. le Colonel Bogolubow remercie ses collègues des sentiments dont le Colonel de Ripp s'est fait l'interprète. En s'employant activement à faciliter à la Commission l'accomplissement de sa tâche dans un pays encore occupé et administré par la Russie, il croit n'avoir fait que son devoir. Il prie ses collègues de ne se souvenir que de son bon vouloir et des instants agréables qu'ils ont passés ensemble.

Son Excellence Tahir Pacha demande alors que les archives de la Commission soient déposés au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères de Turquie.

Le Président fait observer que la clôture des travaux de la Commission n'a pas été prononcée : il croit d'ailleurs que d'après un usage constant, les minutes devraient être déposées au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères de la Puissance dont le Représentant a été chargé de la direction du Secrétariat.

Plusieurs Commissaires partagent cet avis ; toutefois, pour respecter entièrement toutes les traditions diplomatiques, la Commission décide que les archives seront provisoirement déposées à l'Ambassade de France à Constantinople, pour être remises ensuite à qui de droit en temps utile.

La Commission se sépare à 11 heures 45 minutes.

(Signé) WEDEL.
RIPP.
J. V. LEMOYNE.
E. B. HAMLEY.
H. ORERO.
M. TAHIR.

Signé pour la dernière partie du présent Protocole :
A. BOGOLUBOW.

Certifié conforme à l'original :
(Signé) P. PODSTAWSKI.
A. MARMIER.
DOUGLAS JONES.
F. VICINO-PALLAVICINO.
N. SCHNEUR.
SIMON PAPASIAN.

Le Capitaine Douglas Jones certifie également conforme à l'original le texte des Protocoles Nos. 32, 33, et 34.

No. 198.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, October 16.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Sublime Porte, le 2 Octobre*, 1879.

PARMI les documents communiqués dernièrement au Parlement Britannique se trouvait une note de la Légation d'Angleterre à Athènes, dans laquelle il est dit que les Chrétiens de l'Epire, désireux d'obtenir la cession de Janina à la Grèce, auraient nommé comme délégués de leur part les sieurs Métas, Vassilion, et Scouloudi, et que l'adresse signée à cet effet aurait été revêtue également de la signature du Métropolitain de Janina.

Une autre adresse, attribuée aux populations de Janina, et dont votre Excellence trouvera ci-jointe la copie, nomme aussi dans le même but, comme délégués, deux habitants de cette ville: le Professeur Manaris et le Dr. Demchassiotès.

Or, il est avéré que cette adresse a été signée non pas par la population de Janina, mais bien par la colonie Hellénique de cette ville, et cela à l'instigation seule du Consul de Grèce lui-même.

La participation du Métropolitain de Janina dans cette démarche est tout-à-fait dénuée de fondement. Monseigneur Sophronius n'a jamais eu connaissance de la pièce en question par la simple raison qu'elle n'a été signée ni par lui, ni par ses ouailles. Du reste, je ne crois mieux faire, pour édifier votre Excellence, que de lui transmettre, ci-près, la copie de la correspondance échangée à ce sujet entre Monseigneur Sophronius et le Gouverneur-Général du vilayet.

J'ai cru devoir rétablir les faits sous leur jour réel afin que votre Excellence puisse faire connaître la vérité autour d'elle.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) SAFVET.

Inclosure 1 in No. 198.

The Governor-General of Janina to Monseigneur Sophronius.

Le 10 *Juillet*, 1879 (v.s.).

(Traduction.)

DANS une traduction des pièces officielles du Livre Bleu d'Angleterre publié par le journal Grec (de Trieste) "Imera," se trouve une lettre adressée par la Légation Britannique à Athènes à Lord Salisbury, où il est dit que les Chrétiens de l'Epire avaient nommé MM. Mélas, Vassilion, et Scouloudi comme délégués, et que l'adresse faite et signée à cet effet par des professeurs, avocats, médecins et autres, était également signée par vous, et revêtue du cachet de quinze Moukhtars. Votre dévouement et votre loyauté envers le Gouvernement Impérial étant connus, il n'y a pas à douter qu'il n'y ait eu erreur dans la lettre du Ministre Anglais, et quoiqu'il soit inutile de relever ici cette erreur, je n'en crois pas moins utile, et je serai bien content de vous voir démontrer publiquement la vérité en me faisant savoir si la dite adresse a été signée ou non par vous.

Inclosure 2 in No. 198.

Monsigneur Sophronios to the Governor-General of Janina.

Le 11 *Juillet*, 1879 (v.s.).

(Traduction.)

J'AI pris connaissance de la lettre de votre Excellence du 10 Juillet, 1879 (v.s.), relative aux pièces officielles du Livre Bleu d'Angleterre, dont traduction a été publiée par le journal Grec (de Trieste) "Imera," et parmi lesquelles se trouve une lettre du Ministre d'Angleterre à Athènes à Lord Salisbury, qui rapporte que j'ai aussi signé l'adresse faite par les Chrétiens de l'Epire pour désigner comme délégués de leur part MM. Mélas, Vassilion, et Scouloudi, résidant à Athènes. Tout en reconnaissant la justesse et la sagesse de votre demande, je m'empresse de faire savoir à votre Excellence que je n'ai ni vu ni signé la pièce dont il est question.

Inclosure 3 in No. 198.

Address.

NOUS, soussignés, habitants de la ville de Janina, délégués et habitants des villes et des bourgs de l'Eparchie de Janina, déclarons par la présente que, conformément aux vœux justes et aux aspirations légales que, suivant la lettre et l'esprit du Traité de Berlin, nous avons déjà présentés aux Grandes Puissances, par l'intermédiaire des Ambassadeurs accrédités à la Sublime Porte, nous acceptons avec empressement et satisfaction la future destinée politique que le Congrès de Berlin a bien voulu nous accorder par sa haute et solennelle décision. Mais, à présent, en voyant l'insuccès des négotiations de Preveza et tout ce qui pourrait résulter des intrigues Albanaises et autres, dont une tentative est sur le point de se préparer pour présenter comme pays Albanais la contrée la plus

Hellénique de toutes, et porter entrave ainsi à l'œuvre du Traité de Berlin concernant notre Eparchie, nous nous trouvons dans la nécessité de recourir de nouveau à la haute Cour de Justice de l'Europe en faisant appel à l'équité; et, à cet effet, nous désignons et envoyons comme délégués spéciaux, avec ceux de nos compatriotes qui séjournent temporairement à l'étranger, et que nous désignons et nommons, par procuration distincte et spéciale, l'honorable Manaris, Directeur du Gymnase Zossimas, et le Dr. Demchassiotès, médecin de notre ville, afin qu'ils se rendent auprès des Cours des Grandes Puissances, les suppliant, au nom de tous les Epirotes dont le territoire fut adjugé à la Grèce, de persister dans leur décision en faveur des justes et légales aspirations, et leur exposant, soit par écrit, soit de vive voix, les sentiments des Epirotes.

No. 199.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 16, 10 A.M.)

(No. 153. Very Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October* 15, 1879, 6 P.M.

I LEARN from a confidential source that officers here complain that the failure of Persia to supply the provisions which had been promised is the chief cause of the disaster beyond the Caspian. They accuse England of preventing the supplies. Although telegraph is open, families are not allowed to inquire whether their relatives were among the killed in the engagement at Geoktepe, nor have any returns been published.

Military authorities state that troops must be now sent from Churdjui against Merv, and argue that, in view of British advance in Afghanistan, Russia must necessarily occupy certain strategical points for the defence of her own possessions.

Colonel Matreieff, who was sent to Badakshan to examine roads and inquire into feelings of people, is said to have returned within Russian frontier, and to have reported Khan received him badly.

No. 200.

Mr. R. Thomson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 16, *noon.)*

(No. 54.)
(Telegraphic.) *Tehran, October* 16, 1879, 1·30 P.M.

MR. CHURCHILL telegraphs this morning that he has received information through a Turkoman messenger of the return of the main body of the Russian army to Chat, on its way back to Chekishler, where it had been given out that large reinforcements were daily expected.

It is reported to the Persian Government that, when retreating from Geoktepe pursued by the Turkomans, there was such a panic among the troops that, if the advantage had been followed up, the whole Russian army might have been destroyed.

(Communicated to India.)

No. 201.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 16, 6 P.M.)

(Secret and Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, October* 16, 1879, 11·30 A.M.

REFERRING to my telegram of the 14th instant, French Minister informs me that he has received instructions from his Government to recommend strongly to Greek Government to accept Ottoman Declaration made at the last conference, as the indisposition of the British Government to Greek Declaration had been manifested.

French Minister found great difficulty in persuading this Government to make Declaration mentioned in my last telegram. King and Ministers showed the greatest disinclination to allow a possible modification of what they persist in considering obligatory character of Protocol 13 and their interpretation of it. If modified, Ministry would fall, and King be left in a most difficult position in face of nation, which has been allowed to believe, and has reserved its avowal of, its right to the increase of territory recommended at Berlin.

No. 202.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 257.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 16, 1879, 7·35 P.M.

IN reply to Mr. Malet's No. 33, Slave Trade, we object to word "provisoirement" in proposed Firman respecting Somali Convention.

Instructions go to you by messenger to-night.

No. 203.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Captain Sale.

(No. 29.) *Foreign Office, October* 16, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE to state to you that it has been resolved by the Powers Signatories to the Treaty of Berlin to assemble another Commission of Engineers to report upon the question of frontier on which the International Commission of Delimitation appointed under the Treaty have been unable to agree. You have been selected to represent Her Majesty's Government on this new Commission.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 204.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Captain Sale.

(No. 31.) *Foreign Office, October* 16, 1879.

Sir,

YOU are probably aware that, the Russian member of the International Commission, appointed under the Treaty of Berlin, having dissented from the view taken last year by his colleagues as to the point on the Danube indicated in Articles II and XLVI from which the northern frontier of Bulgaria, as far as Mangalia on the Black Sea, is to be traced, that portion of the task assigned to the Commission still remains incomplete.

Since that time the Russian Government have persistently maintained the views then propounded by their Commissioner, but it has at last been decided, upon a proposal made from St. Petersburgh, and after much correspondence between the Governments concerned, that a new Commission, to which the Russians have assigned the name of "Technical," shall meet at Silistria on the 27th instant, whose duty it will be to examine the question anew and report the result to the several Cabinets, by whom it will be finally decided by a majority of votes.

Your previous experience in discussions of this nature, combined with the circumstance of your presence at this moment in Constantinople, have determined Her Majesty's Government to select you as their Representative on the proposed Commission, and I have to request that you will make arrangements to meet the other members of the Commission at Silistria on the 27th of this month.

For your more complete information and future guidance, I transmit to you herewith copies of the printed correspondence relating to the Congress of Berlin, with the Protocols, and of the Treaty signed at Berlin on the 13th July, 1878, together with a copy of a despatch which I addressed, on the 23rd ultimo, to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at St. Petersburgh.*

The point in dispute, as you will gather from this correspondence, relates to the boundary between Bulgaria and Roumania across the Dobrudscha, described in Article II of the Treaty as starting from "a point to be determined by a European Commission to the east of Silistria," and running thence "to the Black Sea to the south of Mangalia." It was agreed in the Congress of Berlin that the point to the east of Silistria mentioned in the Treaty should be so fixed as to admit of the construction of a bridge across the Danube connecting the two Roumanian shores. (See Protocol No. 15 of the 8th July, "Turkey No. 39," p. 218.)

The matter was examined by the International Commission last year, when six of the Commissioners pronounced an opinion in favour of a point close to the town of Silistria, while the Russian Commissioner maintained that a spot considerably further

* "Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Turkey," Part XLI, p. 304, No. 346.

down the river fulfilled all the required conditions, and was in other respects more convenient. (See "Turkey No. 2 (1879): Correspondence respecting the European Commissions appointed for the Demarcation of Frontiers under the Treaty of Berlin," pp. 63, 65, 72, 79, 87, &c., of which a copy is inclosed.)

It only remains for me now to state to you that it will be your duty to examine the whole locality under discussion in conjunction with your colleagues, and to report to me the views entertained by them severally on the point on which they have been summoned to express an opinion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 205.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Captain Sale.

(No. 32.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 16, 1879.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith, for your information, copies of the correspondence, marked in the margin,* relating to the wish expressed by the Roumanian Government to be represented in the Commission which is to meet at Silistria on the 27th instant, with reference to the boundary across the Dobrudscha.

You will observe that Her Majesty's Government have given their assent that Roumania shall be represented "officieusement et à titre de renseignement" upon this Commission.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 206.

Consul-General Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 17, 11 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, October* 16, 1879, 10·15 P.M.

MR. ST. JOHN informs me that, as the Albanian League has commenced to view with less disfavour than at first his presence at Prisrend, he has decided not to start for Constantinople until he has ascertained what has been [? programme off†] the League.

No. 207.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 17, 1879, 5·45 P.M.

AUTHORITIES at Bagdad appear to demand payment of customs duties on new steamer contrary to understanding recorded in your despatch of the 9th December last. Please to take steps and report.

No. 208.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 17, 11 P.M.)

(No. 695.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 17, 1879, 6 P.M.

MONTENEGRIN Minister informs me that Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs says that the Porte cannot cede Gussinje-Plava to Montenegro, but that it is willing to effect an exchange, and that if an equivalent cannot be found, it is ready to add a pecuniary compensation.

He has, at the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs' request, telegraphed this proposal to the Prince of Montenegro, who, he is convinced, will reject it.

If Montenegro should take measures, as he says is probable, to occupy Gussinje-Plava by force, the Porte must be held responsible for the consequences.

* Nos. 100, 101, and 158. † Group wrong.

Captain Sale thinks that an exchange advantageous to both parties might be made, and advises one. He has sketched out a scheme, of which I spoke to Montenegrin Minister, but he declared that the Prince would agree to nothing but the strict execution of the Treaty of Berlin.

It would be very unfortunate if hostilities were again to break out upon this question.

No. 209.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 18.)

(No. 6. Political.)
Prisrend, September 24, 1879.

My Lord,

THIS morning two individuals, professing to be Roman Catholics, poorly clad and unarmed, requested to speak to me.

They had yesterday been to the Austrian Consulate, where they were not admitted.

On my asking them who they were and what they wanted, they said they were Christian refugees from Ipek and Jakova, where their co-religionists were so persecuted by the Mussulman population that life there had become unbearable, and that they had made their escape.

They moreover informed me that from Jakova 300 persons were coming to Prisrend to know the object of my arrival, and to warn me that, if I did not speedily take my departure, it would go hard with me and the Christian population at those two places.

I thanked them for their information, and dismissed them without a remark.

I am convinced in my own mind that the report of the visit with which I am to be honoured is utterly false, and the whole affair only one of intimidation, got up, probably by the Russian party, in order to frighten me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 210.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 18.)

(No. 7. Political.)
Prisrend, September 24, 1879.

My Lord,

TO-DAY I received a visit from five members of the Albanian League, all Chiefs in the districts about Jakova.

After the usual salutations they informed me that they were well aware of the friendship that had always existed between the English nation and theirs, a fact which, they said, is now being handed down from generation to generation, and that they had come to pay their respects.

I replied that their visit had given me very great pleasure, and that ever since my arrival I had much desired to make their acquaintance. I then informed them that I had come as a friend and peace-maker.

After dilating on the many services that England had rendered Turkey, to which they paid the greatest attention, now and then nodding approvingly, I said, in return, the English Government asks only one thing of you, and that is, to abstain from persecuting Christians, and to do all in your power to protect them.

They promised to do so, at the same time mentioning instances where they had interposed.

I was then asked what was said in other countries respecting the death of Mehemet Ali Pasha?

I replied that the real facts of the case were not known (I had to be cautious). Upon this they informed me that, having been ordered by Mehemet Ali to surrender at once Gussinje to the Montenegrins, without fighting or even an explanation, they killed him.

Another question they put to me was: how it came that the English, being such friends with the Sultan, should occupy Cyprus? all of which I had to explain, and they appeared satisfied. They also wished to know what a Russian Consul was doing at Pristina. I replied that it was a subject on which I was equally ignorant.

They then informed me that some time back a number of prisoners had been liberated by the Governor of Prisrend, Osman Bey; but that one of their Rayahs, who had been there six years, was still detained, and that they were going to petition the Governor, failing which they should have to kill him. I have since heard that the man had been condemned to fifteen years imprisonment for murder.

One of them, the Chief of a large district, informed me that, for an annual subsidy, if I could procure it for him from the Government, he was willing to guarantee the safety of the Christians.

Thus ended our interview, and such are the people with whom I have come in contact —a more cut-throat looking lot I never beheld.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 211.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 18.)

(No. 8. Political.)
Prisrend, September 25, 1879.

My Lord,

NOTWITHSTANDING the friendly assurances given me by the members of the Albanian League when they called upon me yesterday, I must confess that our position here is somewhat critical.

Yesterday I was told that our presence was looked upon by the League with suspicion, and I have been strongly advised not to venture out for the next few days, so here I am a prisoner in my own house. Not that I have any reason to suspect an attack on the part of the townspeople, for ninety-nine of those out of a hundred are for peace and quiet; but the place is at present infested by the most notorious brigands and cut-throats in the country; and fanatics, excited by drink, over which the authorities have no power, are loitering about.

In a few days the League is to hold its first sitting. I shall shortly afterwards be made acquainted with the tendency of its deliberations.

In the meantime, the country is in a fearful state of anarchy. A period of terrorism exists, which is becoming unbearable to all that are well-disposed. Extensive robberies, acts of brigandage, and murders are the order of the day, and malefactors are going about with impunity.

Only yesterday a murder took place close to my house, no notice being taken by the authorities.

During the last three months no less than 24,000 sheep have been carried off by brigands, who have informed the owners that they could have them back on payment of so much per head.

The present state of things, I am assured, is the result of the weakness of the Government in not being able to punish the guilty parties connected with the murder of Mehemet Ali, many of whom are now here walking the streets armed to the teeth, and about to deliberate on grave questions concerning the future policy to be adopted and the administration of this province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 212.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 18.)

(No. 9. Political.)
Prisrend, September 25, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship the arrival yesterday of M. Yastrebow, the Russian Consul.

M. Yastrebow was here in that capacity a few years ago, after which he was appointed to Scutari, and during the war was employed at Ragusa, where I made his acquaintance.

On his way here he passed through Pristina, where he remained several days, and gives a most distressing account of the state of affairs at that place, as well as at Jakova

and Ipek. His testimony has been corroborated by all those with whom I have spoken on the subject.

At Pristina, during the last month, twenty-seven murders took place, principally among the Christian population, who are now shut up in their houses, afraid to cross the street to procure food and water. They have been compelled to give up 400 houses to the Turkish fugitives from Bosnia, for which they receive no payment; and are obliged to huddle together three and four families in mere hovels. Their shops are all closed, because the Turks walk in and help themselves to whatever they may have a fancy for without paying.

This reign of terror is not confined to the Christians only, but extends also to the peacefully disposed and industrious Turks, who complain bitterly of the present state of things.

The authorities make vain attempts to establish order, but their good intentions are frustrated by the weakness of the Government.

A Christian is murdered, or a Turk, witnesses are called, but no one dares give evidence.

The weak must bow to the strong and the bully, and a system of terrorism continue until the just indignation of the civilized world is fairly roused.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 213.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 18.)

(No. 10. Political.)

Prisrend, September 26, 1879.

My Lord,

IT is stated that on the part of the Turkish Government, the Albanian League, and the Mussulman population, there exists a deliberate intention of systematically compelling the Christians, whose ancestors occupied the country prior to the Turkish conquest, by persecution, to leave the towns situated in this part of Albania, and to fill up the gap by Turkish immigrants from Bosnia and other parts.

But the Government, unwilling to act on their own responsibility, for fear of incurring the odium of Europe, have deputed the Albanian League to take matters in hand.

These reasons are assigned for the great meeting of the Albanian League now at Prisrend, though its object, ostensibly, is to establish order and justice.

Whether these surmises be correct will be known in a few days. I have good reason, however, for believing that no reliance can be placed in such reports, and that the majority of the Albanian League are really in favour of order.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 214.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 18.)

(No. 11. Political.)

Prisrend, September 27, 1879.

My Lord,

THE result of this so-called Conference now being held at Prisrend by the Albanian League is causing the inhabitants of this town the greatest anxiety. Satisfaction is, however, felt at the report that two Government Delegates, who are to take part in the discussions, will shortly arrive from Constantinople.

The safety of the population, and more particularly that of the Christian community, now depends on the turn of events.

It is to be hoped, therefore, that the result will be in favour of order and tranquillity, and I have every reason to believe that such will be the case at Prisrend; but, nevertheless, it behoves us not to neglect the interests of the persecuted Christians at Jakova, Ipek, Pristina, and the outlying villages.

I reported yesterday the appointment of a Russian Consul, who, previous to his arrival at Prisrend, made himself thoroughly acquainted with the persecutions now being carried on at the above-named places.

There is no doubt that his reports will furnish the Russian Government with ample material out of which political capital may be made; and I venture to remark that the Porte would do well to take the matter in hand at once before the winter sets in.

As I have already stated in my previous despatches, the authorities, even if they were willing, are not able to keep order; and, consequently, any representations which we might make would be to no purpose.

As winter is fast approaching, and no time must be lost, I would ask your Lordship's permission, should I find it necessary, at once to proceed to Constantinople, to confer with Sir Henry Layard as to the steps to be taken by the Porte to put a stop to these persecutions; whereby great misery and effusion of blood will be prevented.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 215.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 18.)

(No. 12. Political.)

Prisrend, September 28, 1879.

My Lord,

I REGRET to have to report that there is no improvement yet in our situation. As this continual confinement is becoming intolerable, I to-day ventured out. After visiting my colleagues, whose positions are far more critical than mine, I called on Osman Bey, the Acting Governor, with the object of picking up some information. He informed me that a few more members of the League were expected, and that on their arrival business would at once commence. In the meantime, he said, it would be advisable for me not to walk about the streets, and recommended that I should abstain for a few days longer from going out and exposing myself.

I asked him whether there really was any danger to be apprehended, and reminded him that he was responsible for our personal safety.

Upon this he gave me his hand, and said that at present no fear need be entertained on that point, but that he would apprise us the moment our position became perilous.

There is no doubt that the country is now in a state of anarchy, and heaven knows how it will all end.

Troops there are none to speak of, and the population is armed with Martini and Winchester repeating rifles, distributed by the Government during the war and Austrian occupation.

One portion of the population is for peace and quiet, but the other, especially in the districts about Jakova, is determined that the present state of things shall continue.

Fears of a foreign occupation are prevalent, and the Government, not being able to give them any assistance, and unwilling to incur any responsibility in the matter, says: "We have given you plenty of arms and ammunitions, look out for yourselves."

Such is the opinion of persons who are in a position to know, and with whom I have constant interviews.

The Porte may, possibly, now regret its imprudence, though that is doubted, but the mischief has been done, and the turbulent section of the population are now determined to keep the upper hand.

No wonder, then, that the meeting of the Albanian League is watched with feverish excitement. On its decision depends the fate of this country. Whether we are to have comparative tranquillity or anarchy in its very worst form. If the latter we shall be asked what our business here is, and we shall consider ourselves very fortunate if allowed to depart unmolested.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 216.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 18.)

(No. 13. Political. Confidential.)

Prisrend, September 29, 1879.

My Lord,

BEING to all intents a prisoner, pending the termination of the Albanian League Conference, and having plenty of time on my hands—perhaps a little more than what would be considered conducive to happiness—I would, with your Lordship's permission, make a few remarks respecting the object of my mission here, the state in which I found the country, and the steps that, in my opinion, ought to be taken for its future political and social welfare.

At the request of the Austro-Hungarian Government your Lordship considered it expedient, with a view to assisting their Consul in checking persecution, to send out a British Consular officer, who by his presence alone, to a certain extent, would be likely to attain that object. For such a service your Lordship was good enough to select me.

I feel highly honoured at the choice, and trust that the duties confided to me will be carried out in such a manner as to meet with your Lordship's approval and satisfaction.

On my arrival at Prisrend I found the Representative of Austria-Hungary shut up in his own house, afraid to walk about the streets of the town for fear of being assassinated. In that condition he has now been for more than three months.

I would therefore ask what object has the Austro-Hungarian Government in keeping an agent here?

Certainly not to protect Austrian subjects, for there are none. Nor can it be with the view to the development of trade, for trade can take care of itself; and I know from experience that where there is a supply there will also be a demand without the assistance of a Consular officer, whose duties become serviceable only when a certain amount of trade has already been established, and the intercourse between the two countries is such as to make his presence indispensable.

Is it to protect the Christians from persecution? Well and good, that is, if he can attain his object; but I deny that to be the case.

In the first place, as he never stirs out of his house, how can he ascertain the truth of a report which, probably, I may say invariably, comes to him second hand; and if he could substantiate the fact of a decided case of persecution, where can he obtain redress? With the authorities? Out of the question; they may be willing to act, but they lack the means, owing to a rotten Government; consequently they have no authority.

Let us suppose an act of persecution, or a crime towards a Christian has been proved, and the guilty party punished, what is the result? A blood feud ensues, and two or three Christians murdered.

Such a case happened only a short time back. Two of the assassins of the Bosnian Bey, mentioned by Count Montgelas in his note to your Lordship, dated the 4th August of the present year, were arrested, condemned, and executed. What was the result? Three Christians, indiscriminately selected, were shot by the friends of the assassins.

There is no doubt that the Christians are in imminent danger of outrage and massacre at the hands of the fanatical Albanians; but I deny that it is in the power of the Austrian Consul in the slightest degree to avert that danger; nor will my presence act as a salutary check on the population. On the contrary, though our presence, and especially mine, has caused unbounded satisfaction to the peaceful and orderly section of the Mussulman population, such as that to be found at Prisrend, where no persecutions are to be apprehended, it has produced a contrary effect to those situate at a distance, who look upon our arrival with suspicion and overt dissatisfaction.

I would ask how it is that the presence of a Consular Corps at Prisrend should have that effect, for it is not possible that human beings, however fanatical and lawless, should prefer bloodshed for its own sake, when happiness and contentment are within their reach.

The question lies in a nut-shell, and by its solution we come to the real point at issue.

For some time past emissaries from Italy, Austria, Servia, and Heaven knows from what other country, with the prospect in view of a dissolution, sooner or later, of the Turkish Empire in Europe, have been going about in order to ascertain the feelings of the people with regard to a foreign occupation, and more especially by that of the country which each emissary represents.

This is perfectly well known to the people, hence the suspicion attached to our arrival, and not without reason, for I know it, as a positive fact, that my Austrian colleague has indirectly received instructions to that effect.

As for my Russian colleague, the object of his appointment may be put down as a foregone conclusion. His presence here only serves to increase the existing excitement, and to aggravate our already difficult position.

Seeing that I cannot afford the Christians any protection, and that, in my opinion, a Consular Corps at this moment is doing more harm than good, I would ask: is it worth while for Her Majesty's Government to keep a Consular establishment at Prisrend simply for the protection of an Austrian official, whose duties are of a purely political character.

Far be it from me to propose that the existing intolerable state of affairs should be left as it now is. On the contrary, a stop ought to be at once put to these cruel persecutions and bloodshed, and I would therefore suggest that the most urgent representations should be made to the Porte to that effect.

Troops ought at once to occupy Prisrend, whence detachments might be sent to some of the very worst towns, such as Jakova, Pristina, and Ipek, and order would comparatively be restored.

It is true that the worst section of the population, and the most difficult to deal with, is to be found in the mountains round about those localities; but a glance at the map will suffice to show that, by their geographical position, these people are hemmed in by the Catholics on the west, the Austrians, now in the vicinity of Novi-Bazar, in the north-west, Servia on the north, Bulgaria on the east, and eventually by the Turkish troops, which I propose, on the south.

Their submission, consequently, must follow, pending which the occupied towns would afford a refuge to Christians and others.

Such a course, earnestly taken up by the Porte, would, in my opinion, counteract foreign intrigue by putting a stop to just complaints of maladministration, or, rather, of no administration.

It is then that the presence of a Consular Corps might become really useful; and it is with this object in view that I desire to be allowed to proceed to Constantinople to confer with the Ambassador.

Winter is now fast approaching, and it is of paramount importance that immediate steps should be taken in the matter.

Every day lost represents so much misery and bloodshed, not only among the Christians, but also among the well-behaved and industrious Mussulman population.

I ask your Lordship's pardon if I have been somewhat too outspoken and off-hand in my remarks.

The great anxiety which I feel for the safety of the Christian community, and my heart's desire to assist them, will, I trust, be sufficient excuse.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 217.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 18.)

(No. 14. Political.)

Prisrend, October 1, 1879.

My Lord,

TWO days back my Mahommedan cavass had occasion to take his rifle to the gunmaker to be repaired. Yesterday the Acting Governor's Aide-de-camp called on me to say that an official complaint had been made to his superior that the cavass belonging to the British Consulate had been seen walking about the streets armed with a rifle, and, as it was contrary to regulations, he very politely requested me to forbid him doing so another time.

I explained to him the circumstances, and at the same time promised that the offence should not be repeated.

I now find that something like 300 persons from all parts of Albania are perambulating the streets of Prisrend with Martini rifles over their shoulders, and no notice is taken.

The matter is of little importance except as showing the jealousy there exists among the Mussulman population at any Christian, or any one in the service of a Christian,

though he be of the same religion as theirs, carrying arms, and the weakness of the authorities in having to show such partiality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 218.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 18.)

(No. 15. Political.) *Prisrend, October 1, 1879.*

My Lord,

THIS morning a person in whom I have implicit confidence read me a letter which he had just received, the contents of which were as follows:—

"Inform the English Consul only that a plot exists at Jakova for the assassination of all the Consuls at Prisrend. He would do well not to receive strange visitors unless accompanied by some trustworthy person."

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 219.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 18.)

(No. 16. Political.) *Prisrend, October 1, 1879.*

My Lord,

I HEAR that the Albanian League called together by the Government is to hold its first sitting to-day or to-morrow, and that then only it will be made known to them why they have been assembled.

From what has already transpired it appears that the majority are in favour of tranquillity, and that in a few days they will be dismissed to their homes, and all will be quiet.

I have been informed that many of the respectable Mussulmans are heartily disgusted at the present state of affairs, and that they have gone so far as to express a desire that, if the Porte is unwilling or unable to maintain order, a foreign occupation may take place.

Those who entertain opposite views are said to be in the minority. They inhabit the districts about Jakova and Ipek. Their desire that the present state of things should continue is explained by the fact that, owing to the disturbances during the last few years, the Government has not been able to impose taxes as heretofore, and that they, consequently, now fear that by the re-establishment of order they may be called upon to settle long-standing accounts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 220.

Consul-General Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 18.)

(No. 120. Political.) *Scutari, October 3, 1879.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that Mr. St. John has requested me, by letter received to-day from him, to ask your Lordship by telegraph that he should be permitted to go to Constantinople to confer with Sir Henry Layard on the present state of affairs in the Vilayet of Kossovo.

Mr. St. John states that he is powerless to ameliorate the position of the native Christians; but that should the pending deliberations of the Albanian League not end favourably, he might prove of great use to the Ambassador by being able to point out at once the remedial steps which ought to be taken.

He adds that he and his Russian colleague, at great personal risk, go about Prisrend, although the Acting Governor, Osman Bey, urges them to remain at home. I fully share

Mr. St. John's belief that his residence in Prisrend can be of no advantage to any one if he is to remain a prisoner in his house; and I am convinced that the task of re-establishing order is quite within the power of the Porte, as half-a-dozen battalions could subdue the whole vilayet, and cause the Albanian League to disappear. The idea of injuring the influence of foreign Powers by intimidating their Consuls, and of using the League as a channel for effecting secret ends, ought to be promptly discouraged.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 221.

Consul-General Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 18.)

(No. 121. Political.)

My Lord, *Scutari, October 5, 1879.*

HAVING to-day received under flying seal a number of despatches for your Lordship from Mr. St. John which cannot reach the Foreign Office under ten days, I deem it right to inform your Lordship by telegraph that the state of affairs in the Vilayet of Kossovo as reported by Mr. St. John is truly alarming.

Mr. St. John is now a prisoner in his own house, as he has been obliged to no longer disregard the numerous threats and warnings as to his safety—coming even from the acting Turkish Governor.

Rumours of the confinement imposed on the three Consuls at Prisrend have reached this, and are necessarily augmenting and giving rise to uneasiness.

Should the Porte be unwilling to take the requisite steps to maintain its authority by forwarding speedily sufficient troops, I would certainly follow Mr. St. John's suggestion and withdraw him from where he is virtually a prisoner.

As the Ottoman authorities may find illusory the trust that the present deliberations of the League will have a pacific end, and as all intercourse with the association cannot but be dangerous, I unhesitatingly echo Mr. St. John's urgent appeal for prompt and unprejudiced consideration of the state of affairs on the part of the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 222.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 18.)

(No. 237.)

My Lord, *Athens, October 9, 1879.*

M. DELYANNI read to me yesterday the Circular relative to the Conference at Constantinople which this Government has addressed to their Representatives at St. Petersburgh, Berlin, Vienna, Paris, Rome, and London, which has no doubt been already communicated to your Lordship by M. Gennadius.

As the Greek Commissioners had taken the counter-proposal of their Ottoman colleagues, made on the 5th instant, *ad referendum*, I asked M. Delyanni what were the intentions of the Greek Government in regard to it.

He said no decision had yet been taken on this subject; but it was evident to me, from his manner, that the counter-Declaration of the Porte would be rejected, and the Declaration of the Greek Commissioners would be maintained, approved as it was by the Ambassadors of all the Great Powers at Constantinople except England, Her Majesty's Government, without declining to approve the Greek Declaration, having, he told me, asked for further information in regard to it from the Embassy at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT

No. 223.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 18.)

(No. 411.) *Rome, October* 14, 1879.
My Lord,

IN compliance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's telegram of yesterday's date, I have addressed a note, bearing this day's date, to the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs, informing his Excellency that Her Majesty's Government agree to Roumania being represented "officieusement et à titre de renseignement" on the Silistrian Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 224.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 18.)

(No. 412.) *Rome, October* 15, 1879.
My Lord,

IN compliance with your Lordship's instructions of yesterday's date, I have this day addressed a note to the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs, informing his Excellency that Captain Sale will be instructed to attend the meeting of the Commission proposed by the Russian Government for the 27th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 225.

Mr. Adams to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 18.)

(No. 1047.) *Paris, October* 17, 1879.
My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 1223 of the 13th instant, I have the honour to report that I have informed M. Callimaki-Catargi that Her Majesty's Government agree to Roumania being represented "officieusement et à titre de renseignement" on the Commission shortly to meet at Silistria.

By my despatch No. 1038 of the 14th instant, your Lordship will have seen that I have communicated this intelligence to the French Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 226.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, October* 18.)

Constantinople, le 18 *Octobre*, 1879.
(Télégraphique.)

NOTRE Ministre à Belgrade nous apprend que, le 9 Octobre, le Représentant du Prince de Bulgarie a été reçu par le Prince de Servie à qui il a remis des lettres de créance. Il a été conduit au Palais en tenue de Cour, escorté d'une garde d'honneur. M. Ristitch, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, assistait à cette réception officielle.

En réponse aux observations qui lui ont été faites à ce sujet par Sermed Effendi, M. Ristitch a déclaré que le Représentant Bulgare, bien qu'officiellement reconnu par le Gouvernement Serbe, devait être considéré comme un simple Agent, et non point comme un Agent Diplomatique.

Cette distinction de pure forme ne saurait enlever à la représentation Bulgare à Belgrade son caractère politique, ni, par conséquent, amoindrir l'atteinte portée au droit de suzeraineté de la Sublime Porte par la réception officielle qui a été faite à l'Agent du Prince de Bulgarie.

Je vous prie de porter ce fait à la connaissance du Gouvernement près duquel vous êtes accrédité, en déclarant que la Sublime Porte ne saurait reconnaître un acte aussi notoirement contraire aux stipulations du Traité de Berlin, acte qui a été à l'avance

condamné par les Cabinets Européens qui ont bien voulu reconnaître unanimement que la Bulgarie vassale ne pouvait être représentée à l'étranger.

Je ne doute pas que vous n'obteniez sans peine le respect des droits de suzeraineté de la Sublime Porte.

No. 227.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 18, 11·50 P.M.)

(No. 694.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, October* 18, 1879, 10·10 P.M.

AARIFI PASHA is dismissed, and I hear, confidentially, that the Sultan intends to replace him by Saïd Pasha, but this appointment is not yet officially announced.

No. 228.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 18, 11·55 P.M.)

(No. 15.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, October* 18, 1879, 10·50 P.M.

THE Ministerial Bill, considerably amended, out of deference to the prejudices of the Ministry, and to enable it to pass as law, has been voted in the Chamber this afternoon, by 133 against 9.

No. 229.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 19, 1 A.M.)

(No. 698.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, October* 18, 1879, 10 P.M.

THE following is the new Ministry:—Saïd, First Minister; Mahmoud Nedim, Interior; Sawas, Foreign Affairs; Aarifi, Council of State; Djevdet, Justice and Public Worship; Cadri, Commerce; Ibrahim Edid, Finance; Soubhi, Vakouf; Safvet, Inspector-General of all the Departments intrusted to apply the reforms, in direct communication with the Sultan. Osman Ali Saïb Hafiz Hassan Ehni Mussif Sabri Rasim Haidar keep their places.*

No. 230.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 19, 2 A.M.)

(No. 699.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, October* 18, 1879, 10·10 P.M.

SAID PASHA, late Minister of Justice, is named Grand Vizier. No other changes.

No. 231.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 19, 9·30 A.M.)

(No. 699 A.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, October* 18, 1879, 11·15 P.M.

THE Turkish and Greek Plenipotentiaries met to-day. Greeks took note of Turkish Declaration. Turkish Plenipotentiaries then requested Greeks to state what line they proposed. They replied that, as it was evident from the first that Turkey was prepared to refuse rectification proposed by Congress of Berlin, it was for her to state what concession she was prepared to make. Turkish Plenipotentiaries promised to give an answer at the

* No stops in last sentence.

next meeting, which was fixed for Monday. Greek Plenipotentiaries seem well satisfied with result of to-day's conference.

No. 232.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 19, 9·40 A.M.)

(No. 700.) *Constantinople, October* 18, 1879, 11·20 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

THE new Ministerial appointments are deplorable, and have made the worst impression here. The time appears to me to have arrived for energetic action on our part. I shall write fully on the subject by next messenger. We should, I think, now insist on immediate carrying out of the reforms promised in Safvet Pasha's note of the 24th October. We ought also to protest against any new loan being raised on Customs which have already been pledged to English and other foreign creditors, until International Financial Commission, recommended at Berlin, has made its inquiry. This will frighten the Sultan, as he dreads this Commission, and thinks that a loan can be raised on Customs which will meet present financial difficulties of the Porte, and render it independent of Europe.

No. 233.

Mr. Egerton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 20.)

(No. 647.) *Vienna, October* 14, 1879.
My Lord,

A LETTER from St. Petersburgh in the "Presse" states that "the Panslavists are working more busily than ever.

"The Panslavist Committee presided over by Professors Bestuschew, Rumin, and Lamansky are about to re-establish a centre of activity at Belgrade.

"The Servian Government owes the Committee about 100,000 roubles, which loan was made through M. Komaroff, the lessee of the 'St. Petersburgh Gazette' ('Viedomosti').

"As the Servian Government has lately received a sum of money from that of Russia, it is hoped that the 100,000 roubles may be obtained by the Committee and used for purposes of agitation.

"The members of the Slav Benevolent Committee make no secret of the fact that, first of all, the Greek Orthodox populations of the still-enslaved Balkan peninsula—thereby meaning Bosnia and the Herzegovina—should partake of these benefits. The Despotovics, Ljubibraties, Jonins, Wesselizkys, Fadejews, and other Panslavic agents, are constantly travelling about, and have sometimes business at Belgrade or Cettinjé, sometimes at Rome, Dresden, or Berlin. Especially the Dalmatian Petranovics, who fled from Serajevo at the time of the occupation of Bosnia to Servia, and there became Dragoman to the Italian Consulate, appears to have many affairs to transact at St. Petersburgh. Besides the assistance to the Greek Orthodox school-teachers and the clergy in the still-enslaved Balkan peninsula by means of money, schools, and churches, the emigration of the Bulgarians from Macedonia, of the Serbs from Bosnia and the Herzegovina, is also planned. Above all, attempts are made to induce former Notables and persons of position to leave their homes to settle in Russia and Servia, because it is no longer possible to endure the Austrian rule. As is usually the case, the unfortunate immigrants are at first assisted for a month or two, and then left to take care of themselves, with the door shut against their return to their country. Thus entirely at the mercy of the agents of the Committee, these immigrants in Servia and Russia are made into agents for information and agitation by their connection with their relatives left in their former homes. A careful reader of the Russian Panslavist press will besides observe that the Russians (Ruthenians) in Galicia are also engaging the attention of these Committees, as sufferers, not only from the Magyars, but also from the Poles, and before long it is possible that disturbances may arise there. In any case, it is a fact that the number of the members of the Russian Panslavic Committees have lately greatly increased, and comprise persons of every rank and station."

Asking M. Kallay the other day on the subject of this Russian propaganda, he seemed to be of opinion that the Panslavic Committees were very short of funds at present. Her

Majesty's Minister at Belgrade will no doubt be able to inform your Lordship whether, if the facts represented in this letter be correct, there is any likelihood of the sum mentioned, or any part of it, being repaid to the Benevolent Committee by the Servian Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 234.

Mr. Egerton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 20.)

(No. 648.) *Vienna, October* 15, 1879.
My Lord,

BARON HAYMERLE, whom I saw for the first time yesterday, and who took the opportunity of expressing himself cordially with regard to Her Majesty's Government, said that your Lordship's view as to the presence of a Roumanian at the Silistrian Commission in a semi-official capacity and for the purpose of giving information, was in every way the view of the Austrian Government.

The French Commissioner, a civil engineer (so Baron Calice informs me), has already arrived. Jäger I understood to be the name of the Austrian Commissioner.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 235.

Mr. Egerton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 20.)

(No. 649.) *Vienna, October* 16, 1879.
My Lord,

THE Government Bill for the administration of Bosnia and the Herzegovina was laid before the Reichsrath yesterday, and contains the general principles upon which those provinces are to be governed.

The leading principle, as regards the financial part of the Government scheme, is that Bosnia and the Herzegovina should be self-supporting.

Should this not be attainable at first, it will be the task of the Delegations to grant the sum necessary to cover the deficit.

Extraordinary expenditure, such as that for railways or public building, will be voted separately by the Reichsraths of both Trans- and Cis-Leithania, to whom also will be submitted the Customs legislation and other matters, such as coinage, certain indirect taxes, &c., which at present are treated in the same manner in both divisions of the Monarchy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 236.

Sir J. Walsham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 20.)

(No. 496.) *Berlin, October* 18, 1879.
My Lord,

ON hearing from your Lordship, on the 10th instant, that Her Majesty's Government proposed to appoint Captain Sale, of the Royal Engineers, as British Delegate on the Commission to be named for discussing the question relating to Arab-Tabia, I informed the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the fact, and his Excellency told me to-day that the German Government also intended to select a military engineer for the post of Commissioner, adding that a similar course would, he believed, be adopted by Russia.

On my mentioning to M. de Radowitz that, in all probability, Austria would be represented by an officer of engineers on this occasion, his Excellency said that this was the case, and that the Commissioners would meet on the 27th or 28th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN WALSHAM.

No. 237.

Sir J. Walsham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 20.)

(No. 499. Confidential.)
Berlin, October 15, 1879.

My Lord,

IN accordance with your Lordship's instructions, I have informed the German Government that Her Majesty's Government have no objection to Roumania being represented on the Silistrian Commission "officieusement et à titre de renseignement."

The Roumanian Government not having as yet taken any steps for ascertaining the views of the German Government on this point, it has not been necessary for the latter to give an opinion one way or another as regards the Roumanian proposal; but, personally, the Minister for Foreign Affairs considers that the conduct of Roumania with respect to the question of emancipation has not been such as to justify her in asking the Powers to make any special concession in her favour; and his Excellency thinks, moreover, that her principal object in wishing to be represented on the Commission is to lead people to imagine that the Powers have already recognized her to a certain extent, in spite of the disinclination she is showing to give effect to the Berlin Treaty in the matter of the Jewish disabilities.

M. de Radowitz is perfectly aware that, should Roumania be permitted to attend the Commission in the manner proposed, she would not in the slightest degree have changed her present position towards the Powers, nor have any right to assert that she had been recognized by them as an independent Power; still his Excellency feels that the Roumanian people might very easily fail to understand the precise merits of the case, and be inclined to attach undue importance to the fact of their country being allowed to take any part, however slight, in the proceedings of the Commission.

Should, however, the other Powers agree to Roumania being represented "officieusement et à titre de renseignement," Germany would not be prepared, M. de Radowitz assured me, to raise any objections to the arrangement.

The Austrian Ambassador has told me privately that the Minister for Foreign Affairs used similar language when speaking to him upon this subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN WALSHAM.

No. 238.

Sir J. Walsham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 20.)

(No. 506. Confidential.)
Berlin, October 18, 1879.

My Lord,

IN my despatch No. 481 of the 3rd instant, I mentioned that although the German Government were very dissatisfied with the project relating to the emancipation which was now being discussed by the Roumanian Chambers, they were evidently disinclined to take the initiative in advising the Powers to remonstrate with the Roumanian Government.

They still are of opinion that the proposals which have been submitted to the Chambers do not satisfy the requirements of the Berlin Treaty as regards the position of the Jews in the Principality, and, I believe, would gladly co-operate with the Powers in any effort which might be made with a view to obtaining better terms from Roumania, but they know that Austria would wish, if possible, to be spared the necessity of doing anything which might create an ill-feeling towards her in Roumania, and to place her at a disadvantage with respect to Russia.

The German Government, therefore, hesitate to make any fresh suggestions, but they are at the same time exceedingly annoyed at the conduct of the Roumanian Government, and this is also the case with the whole Jewish community of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN WALSHAM.

No. 239.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 20.)

(No. 522.)
St. Petersburgh, October 15, 1879.

My Lord,

BARON JOMINI spoke to me at some length this afternoon on what he described as the incautious manner in which the Turkish refugees were being sent back to Eastern Roumelia, and the danger which there was of conflicts arising between them and the Bulgarians established in that province. His Excellency added that, in his opinion, the refugees should only be allowed to return in smaller bodies, as preparations could beforehand be made for their proper reception.

I reminded Baron Jomini that these refugees were merely returning to resume possession of the lands, &c., which belonged to them, and that the whole danger arose from the fact that Bulgarians had been allowed to seize upon property to which they had no claim.

His Excellency did not deny the origin of the danger, but said that we must now deal with things as we find them, and he feared, if great circumspection was not used, serious conflicts between the former and present proprietors would be inevitable.

His Excellency then went on to say that Prince Tzeretelew and M. Davidoff had lately gone to Livadia to make their reports to His Majesty, and that the Emperor had impressed upon them both in the strictest manner that they should use all their influence to prevent any outbreak on the part of the Bulgarian element in their respective Consular districts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 240.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 20.)

(No. 525.)
St. Petersburgh, October 15, 1879.

My Lord,

IN compliance with the instructions conveyed to me in your Lordship's telegram of the 13th instant, I informed Baron Jomini, on the following day, that Her Majesty's Government are willing to agree that Roumania should be represented "officieusement et à titre de renseignement" at the Commission for discussing the question of the best site for the bridge which is to be built over the Danube near Silistria.

In order to prevent any mistake as to the precise terms on which Great Britain consents to this arrangement, I left with his Excellency the memorandum, copy of which is herewith inclosed.

I hear from my Austrian and Italian colleagues that they also have notified to Baron Jomini the willingness of their respective Governments to admit Roumania to the Commission on these terms.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure in No. 240.

Memorandum.

LE Chargé d'Affaires d'Angleterre a reçu l'ordre d'informer le Baron de Jomini que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique consent à ce que la Roumanie soit représentée "officieusement et à titre de renseignement" sur la Commission pour étudier la question de l'emplacement du pont à construire sur le Danube près de Silistrie.

Le 2x Octobre, 1879.

No. 241.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 20.)

(No. 526.) *St Petersburgh, October* 15, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I called this afternoon at the Foreign Department, and informed Baron Jomini, as instructed by your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, that Captain Sale, the British member of the new Commission for examining the best site for a bridge near Silistria, would be directed to attend the meeting which the Russian Government propose should take place on the $\frac{15}{27}$th instant.

Baron Jomini thanked me for this communication. He stated that General Struve, who has lately completed the building of the new bridge over the Neva, and who is considered to be a great authority on bridge building, had been selected, along with another gentleman, to represent the Russian Government on this Commission.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 242.

Major Anderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 20.)

(No. 32.) *War Office, October* 18, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 14, dated the 10th September, 1879, transmitting copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, inclosing copy of a representation from the inhabitants of Yeni-Bazar complaining of the delimitation of the Servian frontier in the neighbourhood of the Kopaonik, I have the honour to submit the following observations:—

The Commission arrived at the Kopaonik on the 19th July, and found that the Servians had already marked the site of Mount Kanilug, and had traced a line through the forest, marking what they considered to be the new line of frontier in this district. This proceeding was complained of at the time by the Turkish authorities, as reported in the notes of the meeting of the 24th May in my despatch No. 6 of the 3rd June, and in consequence of this complaint the Servians desisted from further operations till the arrival of the Commission.

The principal local Ottoman authorities (certain Bosniacs) met the Commission by appointment on the Kopaonik on the 19th and 20th July, and were questioned separately by the President (who spoke their language) and by the Turkish Commissioner concerning the site of Mount Kanilug. They stated that Mount Kanilug was situated 4 hours (12 miles) to the north-east of the site marked on the Treaty map.

On examining the ground and comparing the data of the Treaty and Treaty map with the local features, I was of opinion that the site pointed out by the Servians as Mount Kanilug, and disputed by the Turks, could not be accepted as the Mount Kanilug of the Treaty, because the Servian site did not agree in relative position with the well-known features Suovo Rudiste and Tresko, marked on the Austrian Staff Map as trigonometrical points, and easily recognized on the ground.

Although the French, Russian, Austrian, German, and Italian Commissioners were at first in favour of adopting the Servian site, they eventually accepted the view taken by myself and the Turkish Commissioner, that this site was inadmissible.

It was equally agreed unanimously by the Commission that the position of Mount Kanilug indicated by the Bosniacs did not comply with the conditions of the Mount Kanilug of the Treaty, as it would have thrown the new frontier to the eastward of the watershed line of the Kopaonik Planina, which was clearly at variance with the line of boundary marked on the Treaty map.

The Servian and Turkish sites having been rejected, the Commission, as reported in my despatch No. 27 of the 18th August, decided to establish by measurement the Mount Kanilug of the Treaty from the official data at their disposal, namely, the Treaty and the Treaty map, and the point so established was found to correspond on the ground with a spot called Vampire, which is shown on the map to be in the immediate neighbourhood of Mount Kanilug.

It is possible that there is more than one place called Mount Kanilug (the meaning of the name being "plain" or "plateau") in the Kopaonik district, the Commission having found instances of the same name being attached to more than one site in the same district, as in the case of Radocina on the Servo-Bulgarian frontier.

I was informed that the Bosniacs, who met the Commission on the Kopaonik, and who I believe to be the same persons who telegraphed their complaint to Sir A. H. Layard on the 26th July, are the proprietors of certain villages which were assigned to Servia by the recent delimitation.

I have, &c.

(Signed) S. ANDERSON.

No. 243.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 20, 9 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, October* 19, 1879, 10 P.M.

PRINCE just arrived from his tour in Roumania and along the Danube from Silistria to Widdin.

Bulgarian Exarch has come from Philippopoli to meet him. Russian and Austrian Agents expected to-morrow.

No. 244.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 20, 10·30 A.M.)

(No. 36.)

(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, October* 19, 1879, *midnight.*

I HAVE obtained another circular purporting to bear seal of National Committee, announcing the dispatch of powder and cartridges by Moscow Committee, which urges diligence. The circular requires the Committee of Slivno to send as secretly as possible thirty-five horses to fetch ammunition by the 24th instant.

I am taking steps to ascertain whether the ammunition is really being fetched, in order to satisfy myself of the perfect authenticity of the document, which states that the Secretary-General has been bought over with £ T. 10,000, the contribution of Slivno being £ T. 740, immediate payment of which is demanded.

The letter says that both Governor-General and Secretary-General are now identified with the Committee. It also calls for a return of the number and ages of men drilled, and of the number of Martini rifles.

No. 245.

Consul Lyall to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 20.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tiflis, October* 19, 1879.

EXPEDITION annihilated. Remainder of cavalry returned. Caspian expedition contemplated for next spring unpopular with military. Grand Duke furious.

No. 246.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 20, 11 A.M.)

(No. 702.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, October* 19, 1879, 10 P.M.

FOLLOWING has been received from Consul Henderson, dated to-day:—

"I have received the following telegram for communication to your Excellency:

"'To Ambassador. Commission has been engaged for last fifteen days in solution of local questions. Policy of Said excessively conciliatory. He is demanding pardon for all prisoners and such outlaws as submit, population giving guarantees of future [group wrong]. Said trusts, in case of refusal, you will support his demand and insure its concession. Eight of the ten principal outlaws have come in, and [group wrong] every day. Distress throughout caza amongst Mahommedans [? and] Christians very great and terrible in [group wrong]; could any society assist?'"

No. 247.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 21.)

(No. 242.)
Bucharest, October 1, 1879.

My Lord,

THE Prince of Bulgaria having arrived here on the 29th September, I had the honour of waiting upon His Highness yesterday morning for the purpose of paying my respects.

His Highness entered into conversation with me at considerable length on the subject of his Principality, and laid particular stress on the inconvenience which he anticipated would arise from the working of the present Bulgarian Constitution or Organic Statute.

He described that law as being the production neither of the Bulgarian nation nor of the Imperial Government of Russia, but of Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff and of his enthusiastic followers.

The manner in which the Prince spoke to me on this question has convinced me of the truth of what I had previously heard, that he is alarmed that the present Organic Law ties him down too much, and that he has been brought to take this view by the absence of any wise experienced man amongst his Councillors, and by the immediate influence that his present Ministers and other Russian advisers have upon him.

Similar advice, to rid themselves of the Organic Laws as too democratic, has been persistently given by Russia within my own experience, both to Prince Charles and to Prince Milan for many years after their accession to power, so that I am not in the least surprised at a similar course being followed on the present occasion, though it is rather startling to find that institutions drawn up by Russian functionaries who have since received Imperial thanks and approbation for their labours should have been condemned so soon, even before they have been fairly tried.

The subject is one of considerable importance, and will, no doubt, be brought before the Powers sooner or later should Prince Alexander continue in his present disposition, so that I did not feel called upon to enter into a full discussion of this question with His Highness.

I observed, however, that the well-known inclination of the Bulgars for material prosperity, for schools, roads, &c., and the existence of village communes which have been in full operation for centuries, afford an excellent framework to work upon for directing the energies of the people towards objects of real utility by creating important Local Boards in which young men of ambition would find full scope for their abilities, and thus eschew the temptation of joining a class of politicians which has been so detrimental in Greece, Roumania, and Servia, where no such local bodies exist, and the entire interest is concentrated on party strife on the political arena.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 248.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 21.)

(No. 243.)
Bucharest, October 3, 1879.

My Lord,

DURING the audience given me by the Prince of Bulgaria, His Highness told me that a strict adherence to the Treaty of Berlin has been his programme, and pointed out with satisfaction that the agitation to unite the two Principalities had completely died out in Bulgaria under his rule.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 249.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 21.)

(No. 244.)
Bucharest, October 16, 1879.

My Lord,

VISITS of Princes, vassals of the Sultan, to foreign Courts have at all times been a subject of perplexity and uneasiness to the Porte, and questions of etiquette on these occasions have even led to long discussions and correspondence.

It was to be feared, therefore, that the visit of the Prince of Bulgaria to Bucharest might have produced some inconvenience of this kind, but this has been happily avoided, owing to the course adopted by Safvet Pasha in the instructions given on the subject to the Ottoman Envoy at this Court, Souleiman Bey, and to the great tact and discretion of the latter.

It is probably with a view to avoid every kind of misunderstanding that none of the foreign Representatives were invited by Prince Charles to the banquet given in honour of his guest.

The Turkish Envoy was the first to pay his respects to Prince Alexander, and the latter returned the compliment by calling and leaving his card on Souleiman Bey.

The Prince left this capital on Sunday, the 5th instant, and Prince Charles accompanied him as far as Giurgevo, where he dined with him on board the Austrian Lloyd's steamer the "Franz-Joseph," chartered to convey the Prince of Bulgaria on his trip on the Danube.

The relations between the two Princes appear to have been most cordial and intimate during the whole time, and as the visit of Prince Alexander to Belgrade is postponed till next spring, his stay here has been particularly significant as indicating a friendship entirely independent of Russian dictation or of Slavonic proclivities.

It is probably on that account that a Russian official here is reported as having described the reception given to the "protégé" of his Court as "mesquine."

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 250.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 21.)

(No. 246.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, October* 10, 1879.

THREE amendments have been proposed by the Committee sitting to report on the Government Bill to regulate the status of Jews in Roumania. One of these has, in reality, nothing to do with the question at all, as it reserves for a future settlement the political rights of all the inhabitants of the Dobrudscha, whilst preserving undisturbed the present rights to hold land to all creeds alike.

But the two other proposed amendments are intended to limit still further the unsatisfactory Bill now before the Chambers.

By one of these the right of aliens to hold vineyards, as well as property in towns, is limited to the latter only; and by another a limit of twelve months, after the promulgation of the law, is assigned to the native Jews who wish to apply for naturalization, and to claim it without the delay stipulated for foreigners in general (who are required to reside in the country during ten years after such application).

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 251.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 21.)

(No. 247.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, October* 13, 1879.

HAVING had occasion to see M. Boerescu yesterday, I explained to him the unsatisfactory effect produced abroad by the Bill now before the Chambers on the Jewish question, and how disappointed the Powers feel that, after so many delays, this measure is calculated to evade the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin.

He pointed out the impossibility of receiving a sufficient support in the Chambers for any less restrictive measure, and stated that if the present Bill could only become law a more complete measure of emancipation would be accepted by the electors later on, when the present agitation had subsided..

I observed that there would always be the same difficulty in getting a vote favourable to amendments of the Constitution; but he intimated that probably some other modifications would have to be made before long in the Charter, and that then it would be much easier to enlarge, in favour of native Jews, the provisions of the present law.

I stated that this would have to be distinctly understood if the Powers were to be asked to accept this Bill of Jewish Emancipation as an instalment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 252.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 21.)

(No. 249.)
Bucharest, October 13, 1879.

My Lord,

I AM assured that there has arisen a difference of views between the Jewish community at Jassy and the one at Bucharest.

The leading members of the first are chiefly persons holding foreign passports, as such they have no interest in seeing rights of citizenship conferred on any of their native co-religionists, but would be perfectly satisfied if naturalization were made easy, and if they could avail themselves of it.

Those in this city have mostly thrown off foreign protection and are seeking for admission under some other more general form; they were prepared a few days ago to accept from the Government here the insertion of a large number of new names on the list presented to the Chambers, but advice received from the Israelitic Alliance at Paris has made them resume an attitude of "masterly inactivity."

It is certainly a strange circumstance in this complicated question that a large section of the Jewish population of this Principality should be entirely guided in a political juncture of this importance by directions received from a body of foreign gentlemen entirely unconnected with this country, and wholly unknown here, and who send their behests from a foreign capital.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 253.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 21.)

(No. 251.)
Bucharest, October 14, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE been informed that, out of regard for the objections entertained by the Porte, the Bulgarian Agent to be appointed at Bucharest is to have a purely officious character, and not to receive any official recognition from this Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 254.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 21.)

(No. 253.)
Bucharest, October 14, 1879.

My Lord,

MUCH speculation continues to go on at Bucharest as to the next move the Ministers will make in case their Bill on the Jewish question does not become law by not obtaining the two-thirds of votes in favour of it required for amending the Constitution.

The Opposition continue in their intention to vote against the Bill, declaring that it goes too far in allowing any class of Jews, or even a list of these, to be recognized as

citizens *ipso facto*, but that all who are admitted as such ought to fulfil the same conditions previous to naturalization as aliens have to do.

The members of the opposing parties say, what is the use of stretching a point and voting a law so very unpopular in the country if at the same time you do not satisfy the exigencies of the Powers who will still continue asking for more?

Many of the opponents of this Bill are no doubt actuated by the hope of bringing about a change of Ministers.

It is to remove any such expectation and neutralize some of those partizans who are merely stimulated by the hope of office, that M. Bratiano and his friends have made a declaration by which they state that this is not a question upon which they intend or feel obliged to resign even should their Bill fail to become law.

They say they have a large majority in both houses, and the confidence of the Prince, that a minority cannot carry on public affairs, and that M. Bratiano will therefore continue in office, with the same or with other colleagues, taken from his party, and seek to find some other constitutional issue out of the deadlock on the Jewish question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 255.

Mr. Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 21.)

(No. 186.)
(Extract.)
Sophia, October 6, 1879.

WITH regard to the present condition of affairs in the Principality at large, I have the honour to report—

The extreme eastern districts excepted, where a certain amount of brigandage, as stated in my despatches Nos. 177, 179, still exists, though by no means to the extent or with the characteristics assigned it by partisan statements, the Principality enjoys perfect security and tranquillity, both on its frontiers and in its interior. The neighbourly relations with Macedonia, Servia, and Roumania are excellent; those with East Roumelia, from circumstances with which your Lordship is well acquainted, not equally so.

No. 256.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 21.)

(No. 285.)
My Lord,
Philippopoli, October 7, 1879.

THE Prefect of Slivno telegraphed yesterday to the Secretary-General insisting on the acceptance of his resignation, since, owing to the condition of the gendarmerie and police, he was powerless to maintain order within his district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 257.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 21.)

(No. 286.)
My Lord,
Philippopoli, October 7, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a petition addressed to Her Majesty the Queen by seventy-five representatives of the Turkish refugees belonging to five districts in the department of Philippopoli.

The petitioners represent that they are "forsaken, abandoned, without any protection, without shelter or food," and that, if left in their present condition, "certain destruction amidst the most awful privations" awaits them.

They consequently pray for Her Majesty's "compassion and pity," and invoke the aid of the people "placed under the powerful and protecting sceptre" of the Queen of England and Empress of India.

Petitions to the same effect have been addressed to the Emperor of Austria, to the Sultan of Turkey, and to the President of the French Republic.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 257.

Petition.

(Traduction.)

A Sa Majesté la Reine d'Angleterre, Impératrice des Indes, &c.

QU'IL soit permis aux humbles Soussignés de venir exposer aux pieds du Trône de votre Majesté ce qui suit :

Habitants de la Roumélie Orientale, les réfugiés Musulmans jouissaient d'une prospérité relative lorsque dans un moment de malheur ils ont entièrement perdu ce qui constituait leurs modiques possessions : toit, bétail, grains, instruments aratoires et tout le nécessaire pour la vie des champs. Après avoir été forcé de quitter la terre qui les avait si longtemps nourris, ils viennent de rejoindre leur pays, mais les mains vides et dépourvus de tout. Délaissés, abandonnés, sans protection aucune, sans toit, et sans nourriture, le sort auquel ils ont été voués menaçant de se prolonger, une perte et un anéantissement certain les attendent, au milieu des plus atroces privations. C'est cette situation douloureuse où ils se trouvent que les réfugiés Musulmans de la Roumélie Orientale viennent exposer aux pieds du Trône de votre Majesté pour attirer sur eux sa compassion et sa pitié. Ils font un pressant appel aux sentiments humains des peuples qui, placés sous le sceptre puissant et protecteur de votre Majesté, jouissent des bienfaits de la paix et de la tranquillité. Ils élèvent des yeux éplorés vers eux et demandent à être assistés par leurs secours bienveillants auxquels ils ont tant besoin.

(Suivent les cachets des représentants des réfugiés Musulmans de Philippopoli, des districts de Caradja-Dagh, Cononche, Keupsu, et Coyoune Tépé.)

No. 258.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 21.)

(No. 287.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, October* 8, 1879.

THE inclosed extract from the "Maritza" of yesterday's date criticises a recent order of the Governor-General prohibiting the exportation of corn, as well as an Ordinance, introduced by M. Schmidt, establishing the value of the Turkish lira, from the 1st instant, at 100 piastres.

The present local current value of the lira is about 140 piastres. Consequently, the "Maritza" points out that, unless prices experience a fall commensurate with the increased value of the lira, the public will suffer a considerable loss, particularly on the purchase of the necessaries of life, as the peasantry will not be able to understand why the lira should suddenly represent 40 per cent. less in piastres than it did formerly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 259.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 21.)

(No. 288.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, October* 8, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith extracts from the "Maritza," giving an account of the reception of Aleko Pasha at Tatar-Bazardjik, Carlovo, and Kyzanlyk.

While, however, there can be no doubt as to the enthusiasm with which his Excellency was received by the Bulgarian population, the addresses presented by the Bulgarians, Turks, and Greeks of Tatar-Bazardjik, and of which I have likewise the honour to inclose

copies, prove that the alleged general satisfaction with the rule of the present Governor-General is, in reality, confined to the Bulgarian element alone, and that the population has certainly not been so far "unanimous in declaring that justice was being dealt out with impartiality and equity."

In the sentiments by which the Governor-General is animated towards their country, in the efforts which he makes to render it prosperous, and in the desire which he has manifested to ascertain for himself the real wants of the people, the Bulgarians of Tatar-Bazardjik see the best proof of his good intentions and of his patriotism. While recognizing the difficulties and delicacy of the situation, they state that they know how to appreciate a firm will and a high character, and they assure "his Highness" that "the nation" is with him, and that it is "ready to sacrifice everything for the preservation of its rights, justice being its ideal, and progress its aim."

In conclusion, the address expresses the conviction that, although many towns and villages are still in ruins, and many citizens not yet raised from the condition of indigence into which they have been plunged, the wise and patriotic government of "his Highness" will convert their fertile fatherland into a veritable garden.

On the other hand, the Turks of Tatar-Bazardjik, who, among other well-established grievances, have reason to know that a considerable proportion of the Turkish property in towns and villages has been destroyed during the administration of Aleko Pasha, state in their address that, since their return to their homes, "there are no evils which they have not endured at the hands of their Bulgarian neighbours," and that they are still the object of "vexations" on the part of the latter.

Their more general grievances relate to the manner in which they are kept out of the enjoyment of their lands, &c., and the object of their humble petition is that a limit should be put to their sufferings, and that orders should be given for the restitution of their property

The address corroborates the statements made to me by the Turks of Tatar-Bazardjik during my visit to that town five weeks ago. It represents that, while suffering the most extreme misery, these Mussulman citizens of Eastern Roumelia have not been able hitherto to follow their vocations, or to undertake any work, their wives and families being, meanwhile, deprived of daily bread.

They allege that the Bulgarians prevent them from reaping their own fields, which they keep as if they were the real proprietors, and which they cultivate for their own account; and they instance the abundant grape-crop, which the Bulgarians keep entirely to themselves, refusing to recognize the orders issued by the local authorities, and driving away with blows the holders of such orders.

Another form of persecution of which the Turks complain, and which has frequently been brought to my notice, is, that Bulgarians wishing to appropriate Turkish property, while observing legal forms, bring actions against the proprietors in respect to alleged old debts, and easily obtain judgments which compel the defendants to sell their property at a wretchedly low price, in order to satisfy the claims of their pretended creditors.

The address presented to Aleko Pasha by the Greeks of Tatar-Bazardjik is full of complaints concerning the inequality with which they are treated in respect to the political rights which they enumerate, and concludes by praying that Greeks may be accepted in the gendarmerie and militia, since they are ready to fulfil every duty towards the State, "provided their rights are not usurped."

The tenour of these several addresses is characteristic of the condition of Eastern Roumelia under the ostensible rule of Aleko Pasha, but in reality under that of the "National Committee."

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

[Inclosure 1 not printed.]

Inclosure 2 in No. 259.

Extract from the "Maritza" of September 11 / October 11, 1879.

Traduction de l'Adresse donnée à Son Altesse le Gouverneur-Général par les Bulgares de Tatar-Bazardjik.

Altesse,

LES sentiments dont vous êtes animé envers notre pays, qui a tant souffert, les efforts que vous déployez pour sa prospérité, le désir de voir tout de vos propres yeux, de connaître de plus près les vrais besoins de la population, sont les meilleures preuves de vos bonnes intentions et de votre patriotisme. Le peuple, Altesse, connaît les difficultés des circonstances et la délicatesse de la situation; mais en même temps il sait apprécier la ferme volonté et le haut caractère. Quoique nous ayons été maintes fois désillusionnés et que plusieurs de nos espérances aient été déçues, cependant votre présence parmi nous nous donne le courage d'espérer dans l'avenir. La destinée de notre pays est remise entre vos mains, et nous avons pleine confiance que vous ferez tous vos efforts pour sauvegarder nos droits. Soyez sûr, Altesse, que la nation est avec vous; qu'elle est prête à sacrifier tout pour la conservation de ses droits; car la justice est son idéal et le progrès sont but. Dans les moments les plus difficiles, croyez, Altesse, que des milliers d'âmes sympathisent avec vous.

En vérité, notre pays a éprouvé beaucoup de malheurs; les ruines de plusieurs villes et villages gisent encore aujourd'hui, plusieurs de nos concitoyens ne se sont pas encore relevés de l'état d'indigence où ils ont été plongés; mais nous avons le plein espoir que, sous le sage et patriotique Gouvernement de votre Altesse, notre patrie si richement dotée par la nature rassemblera à un jardin: à la détresse et à la dévastation succéderont la jouissance et le bien-être. De cette manière vous érigerez dans chaque cœur Bulgare un monument que le temps ne pourra jamais altérer.

Agréez, &c.

(Suivent les signatures des Bulgares de Tatar-Bazardjik.)

Inclosure 3 in No. 259.

Extract from the "Philippopolis" of October 8, 1879.

Tatar-Bazardjik, le 18 Septembre (minuit).

A SON arrivée à la gare Son Altesse le Prince Alexandre Vogoridès a été reçu avec un grand enthousiasme par tous les habitants sans distinction de race ni de religion. Son entrée dans la ville a été triomphale.

La ville est illuminée; la population enthousiasmée.

Tatar-Bazardjik, le 29 Septembre / 2 Octobre, 1879.

Gouverneur-Général a été l'objet de témoignages très-enthousiastes de toute la population indistinctement. Son Altesse reçut hier députations de toutes les communautés. Toutes, et particulièrement la députation Turque, expriment leur entière satisfaction quant à la répartition impartiale de la justice à leur endroit.

Presque tous les réfugiés Turcs sont installés dans leurs maisons. Gouverneur-Général a pris mesure pour améliorer immédiatement leur sort.

Nous serions tous les premiers à nous réjouir des manifestations populaires décrites dans ces dépêches, si les sentiments de satisfaction qu'on prête aux Turcs n'étaient pas entièrement détruits par une pétition des Musulmans de Tatar-Bazardjik, adressée à son Excellence Aléko Pacha. Nous regrettons vivement que notre confrère de la "Maritza" se soit laissé induire en erreur. Une autre fois, avant de publier de pareilles fausse tés, nous l'engageons à réfléchir sur un proverbe Français qui dit, "Qui n'entend qu'une cloche n'entend qu'un son."

Voici du reste la pétition en question. Qu'on la confronte avec les télégrammes ci-dessus, et on verra si ceux-ci ne sont pas un tissu de mensonges débités dans le but de jeter de la poudre aux yeux:—

"A Son Excellence le Vali du Vilayet de la Roumélie Orientale:

"Nous soussignés, vos humbles serviteurs, natifs de Tatar-Bazardjik, avons l'honneur d'informer votre Excellence que nous sommes revenus dans notre pays, l'an de l'Hégire 1294.

"Depuis notre retour dans nos foyers, il n'y a pas de maux que nous n'ayons endurés de la part des Bulgares. Même à l'heure qu'il est, nous sommes l'objet de leurs vexations. Quelques faits prouveront à votre Excellence combien nos plaintes sont fondées.

"Un jour de la semaine dernière un Musulman de nos voisins, nommé Hadji Mehmed, fut assailli en pleine rue, une heure après le coucher du soleil, par un Bulgare, qui avec sa bourse lui enleva aussi sa montre. Non content de l'avoir dévalisé, Guiorgui (c'est le nom de l'agresseur), battit Hadji Mehmed le mieux qu'il put. C'est en se rendant chez lui, au sortir d'une maison voisine, que notre coreligionnaire fut attaqué opiniément par Guiorgui. Nous ne manquâmes pas de faire des plaintes à ce sujet au Mutessarif de la ville.

"Mais ce ne sont pas là nos principaux griefs contre les Bulgares; nous en avons d'autres d'un caractère plus général.

"Réduits à la misère la plus extrême, nous n'avons pu jusqu'à présent vaquer a nos affaires ni entreprendre aucun travail. Ainsi tandis que nous sommes forcés à rester les bras croisés, nos femmes et nos enfants sont privés de leur pain quotidien. Si nous avons tant à souffrir, c'est que les Bulgares nous empêchent de faire la récolte de nos champs, qu'ils retiennent comme leur fief et les font produire pour leur propre compte. Nous nous sommes plaints aux autorités locales, qui nous avons hâte de le dire, ont pris notre demande en considération, et donné les ordres nécessaires à ce que justice nous soit faite. Nous nous faisons un devoir de signaler en cette occasion la conduite des autorités vis-à-vis de nous. Mais, malheureusement, les Medjliss non pas voulu se conformer aux ordres qu'ils avaient reçus de façon qu'ils n'ont pris aucune décision à notre égard.

"Ainsi, les Bulgares, après avoir fait une abondante récolte de raisin qu'ils ont gardée toute entière pour eux, se refusent encore à restituer nos terres. Nous avons beau leur montrer les "bilètes" (permis) délivrés par l'autorité, ils ne veulent pas les reconnaître. Mais là ne s'arrêtent pas leurs persécutions; non-seulement ils nous déboutent de nos demandes, mais encore ils nous renvoient, après nous avoir roués de coups.

"Nous n'avons pas besoin de dire à votre Excellence, que ce sont-là des choses d'une notoriété publique.

"Ne pouvant donc nous rendre à nos champs, nous restons comme des prisonniers dans l'enceinte de la ville, enfermés dans des mesures où l'on nous a confinés par lots de dix à quinze personnes. Et si quelquefois nous quittons nos habitations, nous n'avons pas d'autres lieux de réunion, que les coins des grands chemins où, mourants de faim, nous réfléchissons au sort qui nous attend, nous et nos familles, pendant l'hiver.

"Mais ce n'est pas tout: les Bulgares veulent s'approprier quelques biens immeubles que nous possédons dans la ville. Voici comment ils s'y prennent pour s'en rendre maîtres par la voie légale; ils prétendent que nous avons d'anciens comptes à régler avec eux; et comme nous ne sommes pas en état de payer ces dettes imaginaires, ils nous intentent des procès. Inutile de dire que nous sommes condamnés d'avance, et forcés de vendre nos biens à des prix très-vils, pour satisfaire aux réclamations de nos faux créanciers.

"Telle est notre situation actuelle; nous nous jetons aux pieds de son Excellence, et nous la prions de vouloir bien mettre un terme à nos souffrances, et donner l'ordre qu'on nous restitue nos biens. C'est là l'objet de notre humble pétition, dont l'accueil favorable dépend des ordres de son Excellence.

Le 16 Septembre, 1295.

(Suivent les signatures des représentants des Musulmans de Tatar-Bazardjik.)

Inclosure 4 in No. 259.

Petition.

(Translation from the Greek.)

Son Altesse le Prince Alexandre Vogorides, Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie Orientale.

Altesse,

LA Demongérondie de la communauté Grecque de Tatar-Bazardjik salue avec joie et avec une vive émotion l'heureuse arrivée de votre Altesse dans notre ville; elle a l'honneur de lui présenter ses profonds respects et le dévouement de la communauté qu'elle représente.

Considérant la visite de votre Altesse comme un signe d'un meilleur avenir—de l'amélioration de l'état actuel de notre ville—la Demongérondie Grecque croit fermement que ses vœux seront accueillis avec bienveillance par votre Altesse. Elle prend la liberté de lui soumettre les moyens par lesquels les Grecs de cette ville pourront posséder la place qui leur revient parmi leurs concitoyens, place qui leur a été créée par le Statut Organique élaboré par les Représentants de l'Europe.

Altesse!

La communauté Grecque qui a enduré tant de maux jusqu'aujourd'hui habite depuis plusieurs siècles cette ville. Les derniers temps, par suite des événements qui se sont passés, le nombre de ses membres s'est réduit à soixante familles. Cette communauté n'a d'autre prétention ou exigence que de vivre en harmonie et union avec les autres races, et surtout avec celle formant la majorité. Elle veut jouir en proportion de son nombre des droits qui lui sont acquis, ses mêmes droits que l'élément constituant la majorité possède et exerce seule dans le pays. En d'autres termes elle veut avoir jouissance des droits élémentaires qui forment le noyau de l'existence politique de l'homme.

Pour acquérir ce résultat, la Demongérondie croit indispensable de solliciter de votre Altesse de lui accorder les points ci-après :—

1. Etre représentée, en proportion de son nombre, dans les divers Conseils et dans la Municipalité.

2. L'usage de la langue Grecque dans les Tribunaux.

3. La publication des Proclamations du Gouvernement en langue Grecque.

4. Donner aux écoles Grecques leur part de la somme affectée par la Municipalité aux institutions de cette catégorie, &c.

5. L'acceptation de Grecs dans la milice et dans la gendarmerie.

Et elle acceptera avec empressement tout devoir envers le pays, dès qu'elle ne verrait plus ses droits lésés.

Les sentiments de justice de votre Altesse font attendre à notre communauté l'amélioration de tout ce qui laisse à désirer dans le pays.

Agréez, &c.

No. 260.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 21.)

(No. 289.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, October* 8, 1879.

THE inclosed article, published yesterday in the "Maritza," refers to a "false rumour circulated by the press which is devoted to Anglo-Austrian intrigues in Turkey, to the effect that the state of affairs in Eastern Roumelia is so disturbed that the entry of Ottoman troops into the province has become a matter of certainty."

The "Maritza" denies the existence of any troubles, and asserts that "tranquillity, order, and security reign throughout the districts of the province, not excepting those in which foreign efforts and gold have not been spared in sowing troubles between Mussulmans and Christians."

While regretting that the Turks should still be under the influence of illusion in respect to an occupation of this province, the Bulgarian organ asks whether it is really imagined at Stamboul that the Bulgarians would remain passive under a semi-barbarian invasion. It points out that the Bulgarians are now armed to the very teeth; abundantly supplied with ammunition, and well drilled in the use of arms; and that they, moreover, have at their side "free brethren," who will range themselves under their banner at the hour of danger; while beyond those free brethren is the "double-headed eagle, which will this time not stop short at San Stefano."

For these and other reasons which are given, the "Maritza" declares that it cannot regard as serious the threat of an occupation of this province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 261.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 21.)

(No. 290.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, October* 8, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a leading article which appeared yesterday in the local Hellenic organ animadverting on the anti-Greek policy pursued in this province since the installation of Aleko Pasha, and calling upon the Bulgarians to abate some of their pretensions in order that the Greek population of Eastern Roumelia may be admitted to an enjoyment of the political rights bestowed upon it by the Organic Statute.

In connection with this subject, your Lordship will perceive from the inclosed paragraph extracted from the same journal that the representative of one of the principal Greek families of Philippopoli (M. Dimitri Argyriades) was offered some days ago a post in the Local Administration, which that gentleman declined, on the ground of the post being of the third order, viz., that of Sub-Director ("Sous-Directeur"), or Secretary of the Finance Department, while a post of the second rank, viz., that of Controller ("Auditor") of the Finances, remains vacant and is destined to be filled by a Bulgarian.

Moreover, the Greeks suspect that the Governor-General offered the post in question to M. Argyriades after his Excellency had heard that the Porte wished the Directorship of Justice to be filled by him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 262.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 21.)

(No. 291.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, October* 10, 1879.

THE inclosed article, exhorting the "honest labourer" to "courage" is extracted from the "Narodni Glas," the local radical organ. It affects to advise the Bulgarian peasantry on their attitude during the approaching elections for the Provincial Assembly, and its general tone would deprive it of all claim to official notice were it not signed by a person who has recently been appointed substitute of the Provincial Procureur.

The most ardent advocates of the liberty of public expression can scarcely justify the reference which such a high judicial authority has made in the press to the "favorites of such and such officials in bad odour, whose good graces and substantial suppers they purchase at the price of their dignity as men;" nor can it be considered consistent with the duty of such an official to declare that the political and military authority of the Sultan in Eastern Roumelia is "detested with reason."

As the latter phrase is printed in small type after a paragraph in which the "honest labourer" is advised to "follow the wise and opportune counsels" of the Director of the Interior, speaking in the name of the "venerated Governor-General," I called the attention of M. Christowicz both to the sentiments expressed in the latter part of the article and to the topographical arrangement or accident which is calculated to convey the impression that the Sultan's political and military authority is "detested" by the Secretary-General.

M. Christowicz assured me that he had not seen the article in question, and that he had no knowledge of the writer. He was, however, enlightened on that subject by the Chief of the Governor-General's Chancery, who came into the room while I was speaking to the Secretary-General, and who, in reply to a question from me, stated that M. Neïtchell had been recently appointed to the post of "Substitut du Procureur."

The Secretary-General thereupon expressed his surprise, and announced his intention of compelling the "Narodni Glas" to remove the impression which the arrangement of its type certainly conveyed to an unpractised eye, and, in the meanwhile, he was kind enough to give me, at my request, a French translation of the Circular which he addressed, on the $\frac{15}{27}$th ultimo to the prefects of departments, on the subject of the elections, and in the latter part of which the advice given by the Secretary-General to the electors is certainly of an unexceptionable character.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 262.

Circular to Prefects regarding East Roumelian Elections.

Philippopoli, le 15 Septembre, 1879.

M. le Préfet,

EN espérant que les listes électorales sont en train d'être dressées partout régulièrement et sans aucun obstacle, je m'empresse de vous donner les instructions nécessaires relativement aux élections, avant même que vous m'ayiez informé d'avoir arrêté les listes électorales, par la raison que les élections doivent avoir lieu après deux semaines seulement de la publication du Décret du Gouverneur-Général, par lequel sera fixé le jour de la convocation des électeurs (Art. 84). Le Gouverneur-Général fera publier ce Décret dès que vous nous aurez donné avis d'avoir arrêté les listes électorales. Cependant pour ne pas perdre du temps, vous êtes prié, M. le Préfet, de vous entendre avec votre Secrétaire et vos Conseillers sur la division des colléges électoraux du département dont l'administration vous est confiée, en deux ou plusieurs sections, de telle sorte que les électeurs n'aient jamais à faire plus de 8 à 10 kilom. pour se rendre au centre de la section du vote.

En outre, vous devez diviser toute commune urbaine en sections, si le nombre des habitants l'exige. Dès à présent, vous devez préparer ces divisions sous la forme d'un Arrêté, en y indiquant les différents centres de vos colléges électoraux où le vote aura lieu. Cet Arrêté doit être publié en même temps que l'Arrêté de Convocation rendu par le Gouverneur-Général. (Reg. Elec., Art. 3, alinéa 1, 2, 3.)

Le jour fixé par le Gouverneur-Général, les électeurs procéderont aux élections, à la majorité relative (Art. 85), conformément aux stipulations suivantes du Règlement Électoral du Statut Organique :—

"Art. 4. Les opérations électorales commencent à 8 heures du matin. Elles finissent en été à 5 heures, en hiver à 4 heures, après midi.

"Art. 5. La séance électorale est présidée par le maire dans chaque commune. Si la commune est partagée en sections, la présidence appartient au maire dans la première section. Dans les autres sections, la présidence est dévolue aux adjoints dans l'ordre de leur nomination, et aux Conseillers Municipaux dans l'ordre du Tableau.

"Un Arrêté du maire, publié au plus tard la veille de l'élection, fait connaître nominativement les Présidents des différents sections.

"Art. 6. Au jour et à l'heure fixés, le Président procède à la formation du bureau, après avoir fait ouvrir la principale porte d'accès de la salle du vote. Les deux plus âgés et les deux plus jeunes des électeurs présents à l'ouverture de la séance sachant lire et écrire remplissent les fonctions de scrutateurs.

"Les scrutateurs nomment ensuite le Secrétaire, de concert avec le Président.

"Art. 7. Pour la validité des opérations électorales, il faut la présence continuelle de trois membres du bureau au moins.

"Avant le commencement du vote, la boîte du scrutin, qui doit être à deux serrures, est fermée et scellée, après examen préalable, par les quatre scrutateurs.

"Une des clefs reste entre les mains du Président, l'autre entre les mains du scrutateur le plus âgé.

"Les agents de la force publique ne peuvent pénétrer dans la salle du vote que s'ils en sont requis par le Président sous sa responsabilité, à raison de violences commises ou d'un tumulte grave.

"Art. 8. Pour être admis à voter, il faut être inscrit sur la liste électorale. Sont admis toutefois au vote, quoique non-inscrits, les électeurs qui se présentent porteurs de jugements ou arrêts ordonnant leur inscription ou annulant leur radiation.

"Tout électeur doit voter en personne.

"Après la vérification de son droit et la constatation de son identité, chaque électeur remet son bulletin de vote au Président, ou à celui des scrutateurs qui remplace momentanément le Président. Les bulletins de vote doivent être manuscrits, et préparés en dehors de l'assemblée.

"Ils ne doivent contenir aucune indication ou signe de nature à faire connaître les votants. Ils doivent être écrits sur des feuillets de papier blanc de même nuance et de mêmes dimensions; ces feuillets seront délivrés gratuitement par les maires et par les agents municipaux aux électeurs qui leur en demanderont avant le jour de l'élection, et tenus gratuitement à la disposition des électeurs le jour de l'élection. Chaque bulletin doit être remis plié, et dépourvu de tout signe extérieur.

"Chaque bulletin remis au Président est immédiatement introduit par lui dans l'ouverture de la boîte du scrutin, et le vote est constaté par l'un des scrutateurs sur la feuille d'émargement;

"Art. 9. A l'heure fixée à l'Article 4 le scrutin est clos, la boîte est ouverte, les bulletins sont comptés, et leur nombre total est constaté. Le nombre total des votants est constaté aussi d'après la feuille d'émargement. Il est ensuite procédé au dépouillement des bulletins par les membres du bureau, soit seuls, soit avec l'aide de scrutateurs-adjoints pris parmi les électeurs présents. Pendant cette opération, chaque bulletin doit être lu par un des scrutateurs, ou scrutateurs-adjoints, à haute et intelligible voix. Lorsqu'un bulletin porte plus d'un nom, il n'est tenu compte que du premier nom. Puis le Président constate à haute voix les noms des candidats ayant obtenu des suffrages, et le nombre des suffrages obtenus par chacun d'eux.

"Avant de se séparer, les membres du bureau arrêtent en double le procès-verbal des opérations, et le signent ou le revêtent de leurs cachets. Les bulletins de vote ayant donné lieu à réclamation sont annexés au procès-verbal; les autres sont brûlés séance tenante. L'un des doubles du procès-verbal reste déposé à la Mairie.

"Le recensement des votes pour chaque circonscription électorale sera fait, en séance publique, par le Préfet, assisté des Chefs des communautés religieuses du chef-lieu du département" (Disp. Trans. Règl. Elec., Art. 13, § 9).

"Art. 10, § 2. A cet effet, l'un des doubles des procès-verbaux des opérations électorales, et les bulletins de vote annexés, doivent être, dans le plus bref délai, transmis au Préfet.

"§ 3. Le recensement se fait en séance publique, après avoir été annoncé par un avis public depuis vingt-quatre heures au moins.

"§ 4. Le recensement achevé, le Préfet, en qualité de Président, fait connaître à haute voix les résultats.

"Il proclame l'élu.

"Art. 11. La Cour Supérieure de Justice rectifie, s'il y a lieu, les résultats du recensement. En cas d'erreur de calcul ou de fausse appréciation dans cette opération, elle en informe le Préfet, qui, sur le vu de la déclaration de la Cour, réunit de nouveau la Commission de Recensement en séance publique, et proclame élu le candidat qui, selon cette déclaration, l'a emporté sur ses concurrents. Toute élection peut être contestée devant la Cour, soit par le Ministère Public, agissant en vertu d'ordres du Gouverneur-Général, soit par tout électeur appartenant à la circonscription dans laquelle l'élection a eu lieu. Les réclamations ou protestations des contestants doivent être adressées au Président dans les quinze jours qui suivent la proclamation de chaque élection.

"S'il n'y a pas de contestation, la Cour juge, sur le vu des procès-verbaux et de leurs annexes, et après avoir demandé à l'élu s'il y a lieu, des justifications concernant sont éligibilité.

"S'il y a contestation, le Président de la Cour en donne avis à l'intéressé, qui a le droit de prendre communication des réclamations et protestations, ainsi que ces procès-verbaux d'élection et de toutes pièces produites. L'intéressé est admis à présenter tous mémoires justificatifs.

"La Cour peut faire procéder à enquête, soit par un de ses membres spécialement délégué, soit par commission rogatoire.

"Ses Arrêts sont motivés, soit qu'elle déclare une élection régulière et valable, soit qu'elle l'invalide.

"Une expédition de chaque Arrêt est transmise au Gouverneur-Général par le Ministère Public.

"Sur le vu des Arrêts d'invalidation, le Gouverneur-Général convoque à nouveau, dans la quinzaine, les électeurs des circonscriptions dont la représentation, en conséquence des dits Arrêts, se trouve vacante.

"Art. 12. Les membres élus de l'Assemblée Provinciale reçoivent une indemnité de 40 piastres or par jour pour le voyage, aller et retour. La durée de ce voyage sera calculée à raison de 20 kilom. par jour entre le collége du Député et le chef-lieu de la province."

Telles sont les dispositions du Statut Organique en ce qui concerne la manière dont les élections auront lieu, ainsi que leurs vérifications.

Il ne me reste, M. le Préfet, que de vous rappeler que les électeurs doivent prendre en sérieuse considération les dispositions suivantes du Statut relatives à l'éligibilité des membres de l'Assemblée Provinciale :—

"Art. 70. Pour pouvoir être élu ou nommé membre de l'Assemblée Provinciale, il faut jouir de l'indigénat Roumélioto et être domicilié dans la province.

"Art. 81. Sont éligibles comme Députés à l'Assemblée Provinciale les électeurs âgés de 25 ans accomplis.

"Art. 82. Ne peuvent être élus membres de l'Assemblée Provinciale pendant la durée de leurs fonctions :—

"1. Les employés Administratifs de départements et d'arrondissements, nommés par le Gouvernement.

"2. Les personnes appartenant au corps de la gendarmerie ou aux cadres permanents de la milice.

"3. Les comptables des deniers publics de la province."

Du contenu de ce dernier 82e Article, il demeure bien entendu, M. le Préfet, que sauf les fonctionnaires exclus en vertu de lui, savoir: les Préfets, leurs Conseillers et Secrétaires, les Baillis et leurs Secrétaires, les officiers, sous-officiers, soldats, et gendarmes; les Caissiers des départements, des cantons, et des Contributions Indirectes, —tous les autres fonctionnaires et employés de la province, soit nommés par le Gouvernement, soit élus par les habitants, peuvent être élus membres de l'Assemblée Provinciale. Donc, à cette dernière catégorie appartiennent: les Directeurs et leurs Secrétaires, les Magistrats et autres fonctionnaires de la Justice, ainsi que ceux de la Direction du Commerce, Agriculture, et Travaux Publics, et de la Direction des Finances.

En un mot, sauf les exceptions ci-dessus exprimées, tout électeur âgé de 25 ans, qui n'est pas sujet étranger, mais qui est indigène et domicilié dans la Roumélie Orientale, peut être élu membre de l'Assemblée Provinciale, n'importe à quelle race et quelle religion il appartient, car les électeurs de toute race et de toute religion, possédant les qualités et conditions déterminés par les Articles ci-dessus, 70, 81, 82, ont également le droit d'être élus.

Indépendamment de tout cela, je crois devoir vous faire observer, M. le Préfet, que le Gouvernement de la Roumélie Orientale est inspiré du désir sincère que ces premières élections soient faites avec une stricte régularité et une loyale impartialité auxquelles on ne puisse rien reprocher. A cet effet vous êtes particulièrement prié de recommander à vos autorités subordonnées de ne point user de leur influence, ayant ou le jour des élections en faveur ou au détriment d'un candidat, quel qu'il soit, mais de laisser les électeurs complétement libre d'élire celui dont les capacités et le patriotisme leur inspirent le plus de confiance. Je crois que c'est un devoir du Gouvernement de laisser dans ce cas les populations libres et indépendantes; car, prenant en considération leur ardent désir pour le bien-être et la bonne administration du pays, nous ne pouvons douter que les habitants laissant de côté toute passion irraisonnable, tout esprit de partie, et toute idée de vengeance ou d'exclusion illégale, ils s'occuperont exclusivement de la tâche sacrée et honorable de confier leurs intérêts à des hommes sérieux, prudents, et capables, qui se distinguent par leur patriotisme sensé et désintéressé, et par leur honnêteté, et qui sont à même de connaître les véritables intérêts du pays, surtout dans les difficiles et très-délicates circonstances dont il est actuellement entouré.

J'ai l'honneur de vous transmettre exemplaires de cette circulaire en Bulgare, Turque, et Grec (Art. 22, § 5), pour les faire distribuer dans tous les colléges électoraux de votre département, où ils doivent être affichés dans toutes les communes urbaines et rurales, pour servir de guide aux électeurs.

Agréez, &c.
Le Secrétaire-Général, Directeur de l'Intérieur,

No. 263.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 21.)

(No. 294.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, October* 11, 1879.

I REPORTED, on the 30th July last, that General Vitalis had disbanded an insubordinate squadron of militia cavalry.

The men had been ordered to join various companies of militia infantry; but, instead of doing so, returned to their homes, in the town of Tchirpan.

This having been reported to General Strecker, the deserters were summoned, through the Prefect, to join their companies; but a repeated summons to that effect having proved of no avail, the men refusing to serve in the infantry, while expressing their readiness to rejoin the cavalry, the General caused the town of Tchirpan to be surrounded by a detachment of 200 militia, who proceeded to seize their former comrades (102 in number), and brought them into Philippopoli, on Sunday last, with their hands tied.

These men will now be tried by a court-martial, but their sentences will probably be light, as there is sufficient evidence to prove that they had been systematically demoralized by their Russian officers, as reported at the time by General Vitalis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 264.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 21.)

(No. 295.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, October* 11, 1879.

IN the violent article, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy, the "Maritza," repelling the accusation of being a Panslavist organ, explains that it is merely philo-Russian, the Russians having earned the "eternal gratitude" of the Bulgarian people, who cannot forget that "it is the Russians alone who delivered them from an odious yoke."

It is, perhaps, only natural, after such a declaration, that the "Maritza" should proceed, as it does, to establish a comparison between the "loyalty, courage, and valour" of Russia, and the "perfidy and selfishness" of the English Government, which "has contrived to draw on itself the hatred and contempt, not alone of the small Christian peoples of the East, but even of the Turks, who will never forgive England for having treacherously incited them to undertake mad enterprises, and cravenly abandoned them in the hour of danger."

In the Bulgarian part of the same journal there appears an article devoted to reassuring the Bulgarians as regards the question of the removal of the present Governor-General, reminding its readers that such a step could only be taken, according to the Organic Statute, after a trial by the High Court, in which the Provincial Assembly would be largely represented. The "Maritza" further states, in the same article, that any attempt at an occupation of the Province by Turkish troops would be resisted by the Bulgarian population.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 265.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 21.)

(No. 296.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, October* 11, 1879.

HAVING observed that the Austrian press has originated a statement, which has been reproduced by the "Daily Telegraph," to the effect that I had had an altercation with Aleko Pasha, and that the latter had reproached me with being the only Consul who made "disagreeable" representations, I think it right to place on record that the statement in question is untrue.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 266.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 21.)

(No. 297.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, October* 11, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith translations of seven complaints that have been made to me during the past week by Mussulman refugees of the department of Philippopoli.

The complaints marked Nos. 1 to 3 refer to the district of Carlovo, which was visited by the Governor-General on the 3rd instant. Thus, while a telegram addressed to the "Maritza" on that date states that the inhabitants of Carlovo had been "unanimous in declaring to Aleko Pasha that justice was being dealt out with impartiality and equity," the Mussulman inhabitants of five villages in the district of Ghiopson (Carlovo) petitioned me on the same date to the effect that their Bulgarian fellow-citizens were

"destroying their houses," indulging in "all sorts of ferocious and barbarous acts," tearing the veil off a woman and stripping her of her nether garments; and beating, robbing, wounding, and generally persecuting the Turks.

On the same date also, the representatives of twenty-four Mussulman villages in the above-named district complained of their indigent condition, and that they would die of famine unless supplied within the year with "cattle, seed, and agricultural instruments."

Mehemet Ali Agha, of Carlovo, states, in a petition dated the 3rd October, that a Bulgarian official in the Inland Revenue Department had for the last six weeks been engaged in demolishing his house, transporting the materials to Kalofer, and that the local authorities, whom he (Mehemet Ali Agha) had petitioned, had hitherto failed to render him justice.

Another Mussulman, inhabitant of Carlovo, represented on the 7th instant that his cloth mill had been pillaged by Bulgarians in the village of Sali, and that he had petitioned the authorities (apparently to no effect), requesting that the guilty parties should be discovered and brought to trial.

On the 8th instant the Turkish refugees belonging to the village of Yahialar, in the district of Koyoun Tépé, within the canton of Carlovo, addressed me to the effect that, although they had returned last year with the object of re-establishing themselves in the village, their Christian fellow citizens of neighbouring villages, uniting with the Bulgarians of Yahialar, had in the spring of the present year undertaken nocturnal attacks against the refugees, wounding a great number, and beating them with the butt-end of their muskets whenever any of them went to work in their own fields. In consequence of these proceedings the refugees of Yahialar had dispersed all over the country, and one of them, who left Philippopoli a month ago with a Bulgarian called Vletchko, in order to sell his land to the latter, had disappeared together with his horse.

The more recent grievance of these refugees consists in the alleged fact that on the departure of certain Christian refugees, who had occupied their houses and left them intact, those houses were recently destroyed by Bulgarians.

On cross-examining these Mussulmans, they stated that the demolition of their houses had taken place four days previously.

In another petition a Mussulman of the name of Hashim states that on the 3rd instant he repaired to his village in the same district of Koyoun Tépé, in order to fetch some wood for sale at Philippopoli, and that at 8 o'clock at night eight Bulgarians, armed with rifles, broke into the house of his uncle, making use of their bayonets, bound the hands and eyes of the inmates, and, covering the latter with bed clothes, proceeded to appropriate a quantity of clothing, &c., and a sum of 4,500 piastres in money.

The petitioner also gives the names of three Bulgarians who, armed with rifles, took away from some Turkish boys the waggon which they were conducting.

As regards this petition, I may state that two of the men who were treated in the manner above described exhibited their injuries to me. I visited them, in company with a medical man, and found one of them, 70 years of age, stretched on the floor, unable to rise from the results of the blows which he had received.

These sufferers had been brought to Philippopoli in a cart.

The last petition which I consider it my duty to bring to the notice of your Lordship is from the Turkish inhabitants of the village of Tcholluk, in the same district of Koyoun Tépé. It relates the same story of Turks being kept out of the possession of their property, and beaten and wounded by their Christian brethren.

I must explain that, although addressed to myself, the inclosed documents are in reality translations of petitions addressed to the Governor-General by my advice.

As my right to interfere on behalf of the complainants could legally be disputed, and as even unofficial intervention on the large scale which the circumstances would require would probably produce no result beyond that of embittering my relations with the local authorities, I confine myself, in most cases, to recording the complaints made, and to giving the advice above mentioned, assisting the complainants at the same time in obtaining a hearing from the proper authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 266.

Petition respecting Ill-treatment of Turks in Ghiopson (Carlovo) District.

(Traduction.)

Au Consulat-Général d'Angleterre.

LES Soussignés, habitants Musulmans des villages Yeken-Beyli, Déréli, Hodjalar, Keuséler, et Okdjilar, du District de Keubsu, envoyés dans leurs villages respectifs par les soins des autorités locales, y voient chaque jour leurs compatriotes Bulgares se livrer à des actes de démolition et de destruction sur leurs maisons, de sorte qu'ils sont obligés de résider avec leurs familles dans le "Caradja." En outre, les Musulmans subissent de la part des Bulgares toute sorte d'actes féroces et barbares; c'est ainsi que dans le village Déréli ils ont mis en morceaux le voile de la femme d'Ali Oglou Suleïman, et sont allés jusqu'à lui ôter le pantalon; qu'ils ont cruellement battu le nommé Ismaïl Oglou Mahmoud du même village, et lui ont pris les 440 piastres qu'il avait sur lui; qu'ils ont blessé le nommé Ibrahim Oglou Ahmed, et se sont emparés de ses vêtements; qu'ils ont battu et blessé le nommé Eudjilerli Ahmed, du même village de Déréli. Il ne se passe pas de journée que les Musulmans n'ont à constater des actes de persécution et de harcellement commis sur eux de la part des Bulgares. Ils ont pillé tous les effets et bagages des habitants Musulmans du village Téken-Beyli, et ils ne laissent pas sortir dans la rue les enfants des Musulmans du village Keuséli. Cet état de choses continuant dans le District de Keulesu, nos coreligionnaires qui se trouvent encore à Philippopoli n'osent point s'aventurer à rejoindre leurs villages. Notre séjour même devenant impossible dans ces circonstances, nous sommes forcés de recourir à votre Excellence pour la prier d'aviser à ce que de droit.

(Suivent 5 signatures.)

Le 3 Octobre, 1879.

Inclosure 2 in No. 266.

Petition respecting Distress among Turks of Carlovo District.

(Traduction.)

Au Consulat-Général d'Angleterre.

LES Soussignés, au nom des habitants de vingt-quatre villages Musulmans du District de Keubsu, viennent par la présente exposer à votre Excellence qu'après avoir été envoyés dans leurs villages par les soins des autorités, il leur est de toute impossibilité, à cause de leur extrême indigence, de se pourvoir eux-mêmes de bestiaux, de grains, d'instruments aratoires et autres, toutes choses indispensables pour leur subsistance. Si, dans le courant de cette année, ces différents objets constituant la condition essentielle de leur existence, ne leur sont pas fournis, la situation qui s'ensuivra pour eux sera des plus déplorables, puisqu'ils auront tous à souffrir de la faim.

C'est cette triste éventualité qu'ils viennent soumettre à l'attention bienveillante de votre Excellence en la suppliant de vouloir bien aviser à ce que de droit en vue de leur assurant la subsistance.

(Suivent les signatures.)

Le 3 Octobre, 1879.

Inclosure 3 in No. 266.

Petition respecting Destruction of Turkish House at Carlovo.

(Traduction.)

Au Consulat-Général d'Angleterre.

HABITANT de Carlovo, je possède dans cette ville une maison actuellement occupée par le nommé Yovantcho, employé de l'Administration des Contributions Indirectes de la localité. Depuis un mois et demi, cet individu s'est mis en devoir de faire des démolitions considérables dans ma maison, ce qu'ayant constaté je me suis permis de lui en faire l'observation d'une façon d'ailleurs fort courtoise. A cela, non content de m'avoir tenu un langage inconvenant, Yovantcho m'a également défendu l'accès de ma maison.

Bien que j'eusse déposé ma plainte entre les mains des autorités locales aucune

mesure n'a été prise pour la sauvegarde de mes intérêts, et Yovantcho continue les démolitions, et fait transporter à Calofer les matériaux. J'ose donc m'adresser à votre Excellence pour la prier de bien vouloir faire traduire le dit individu par devant les Tribunaux, afin qu'il soit condamné à réparer celles des parties de ma maison qu'il a détruites au grand préjudice de mes intérêts.

(Signé) MEHMED ALI AGHA, *de Carlovo.*

Le 3 Octobre, 1879.

Inclosure 4 in No. 266.

Petition respecting Destruction of Turkish Mill in Carlovo District.

(Traduction.)

Au Consulat-Général Britannique.

LE nommé Hadji Ali, de Carlovo, se plaint de ce que les Bulgares ont mis au pillage un établissement de tissus qu'il possède dans le village Sali, district de Gueubsu, à côté du moulin de l'endroit.

Ayant déjà présenté une requête aux autorités leur demandant la découverte et la mise en jugement des coupables, Hadji Ali prie également le Consulat-Général d'Angleterre de vouloir bien faire des démarches pour appuyer sa requête auprès ces autorités, et arriver à la découverte des coupables.

(Signé) HADJI ALI.

Le 7 Octobre, 1879.

Inclosure 5 in No. 266.

Petition respecting Ill-treatment of Turks of Yahyalar.

(Traduction.)

Au Consulat-Général d'Angleterre, Philippopoli.

ORIGINAIRES du village Yahyalar, district de Copoun Tépé, nous étions allés l'année dernière nous réinstaller dans notre village, et, en nous remettant à nos travaux, nous avions commencé à nous pourvoir d'approvisionnements, lorsqu'au printemps de l'année courante nos compatriotes Chrétiens des villages avoisinants, s'étant entendus avec ceux du nôtre, ont dirigé à plusieurs reprises des attaques nocturnes contre nous, et nous ont fait un grand nombre de blessés. De plus, ils se sont mis depuis à harceler et à battre à coups de crosse de fusil chaque fois qu'ils voyaient l'un de nous se rendre aux champs pour vaquer à ses travaux; c'est ainsi que l'habitation dans notre villag nous étant rendue dangereuse, nous nous sommes dispersés dans tous les sens.

Il y a un mois le nommé Vletchko, de Carakdéré, a pris avec lui l'un de [illegible] villageois, Abdi Oglou Suleyman, qui voulait vendre ses terres, et tous deux se sont dirigés de Philippopoli vers Yahyalar; depuis, Suleyman n'a plus reparu, et nous n'avons aucun renseignement ni sur lui, ni sur son cheval.

Un certain nombre des émigrés Chrétiens du Vilayet d'Andrinople étaient venus s'installer dans notre village et dans nos maisons; dernièrement, ils sont allés rejoindre leurs foyers, en laissant intactes les maisons qu'ils occupaient. Mais après leur départ, les Bulgares les ont toutes démolies et détruites.

Actuellement, malgré notre désir de nous rendre dans notre village pour nous occuper de nos affaires, nous n'osons pas nous y aventurer, après tous les méfaits dont nous avons souffert de la part des Bulgares; outre cela, pas une de nos maisons ne reste debout, et nous sommes ici, errants et misérables, ne sachant quelle voie suivre, et comment pourvoir à l'entretien de nos familles.

Nous nous adressons à vous, M. le Consul-Général, pour vous supplier de prendre notre sort en commisération, de nous envoyer dans notre village en nous escortant d'un nombre suffisant de zaptiés, de nous garantir contre les mauvais traitements des Bulgares, et de nous indiquer par quels moyens il nous serait possible de reconstruire nos maisons.

(Signé) Les Habitants de Yahyalar.

Le $\frac{26 \text{ Septembre}}{8 \text{ Octobre}}$, 1879.

Inclosure 6 in No. 266.

Petition respecting Ill-treatment of Turks at Trifil.

(Traduction.)

Au Consulat-Général Britannique.

ORIGINAIRE du village de Trifil, District de Croyoun Tépé, j'habitais depuis quelque temps Philippopoli, lorsque je me suis rendu deux jours avant dans mon village, chez mon oncle Hadji Hafouz, pour prendre du bois, et l'apporter vendre en ville. La nuit même de mon arrivée dans le village, à 8 heures à la Turque, huit Bulgares, armés de fusils, sont venus enfoncer la porte de la maison de mon oncle, en se servant de leurs baïonnettes, et, ayant ainsi pénétré dans la maison, ils ont commencé par nous lier les mains et les yeux, à moi, à mon oncle, à son fils Dourmoush, et à sa femme Aïshé. Après cela, ils nous ont enseveli sous nos couvertures, et, ayant fouillé partout dans la maison, ils se sont mis en devoir de voler 4,500 piastres appartenant à Hadji Hafouz Agha, de même que deux ceintures, trois pantalons de femme, cinq tchevrés, quatre chemises, et divers autres objets.

Les nommés Bedoul Oglou Matach, Peltek Mihal, et Voltcho, Bulgares du village Doghandjelès, tous trois armés de fusils, s'étant rencontrés en chemin avec quelques-uns des jeunes garçons de notre village, se sont emparé d'un chariot qu'ils avaient avec eux. Comme ceux-ci se sont enfuis en courant, les Bulgares ont tiré plusieurs coups de fusils après eux.

Nous demandons que les coupables soient découverts, et que les objets volés soient restitués à leurs propriétaires.

(Signé) HASHEIN.

Le $\frac{23 \text{ Septembre}}{5 \text{ Octobre}}$, 1879,

Inclosure 7 in No. 266.

Petition respecting Ill-treatment of Turks at Tchollouk.

(Traduction.)

Au Consulat-Général d'Angleterre.

HABITANT de Tchoullouk, District de Coyoun Tépé, nos maisons sont occupées par des Bulgares venus des villages de Selgik Ova, d'Ouzoun Kara, de Tchirpiti, et par quelques autres familles descendues des Balkans. Maintefois, nous nous sommes adressés à eux-mêmes d'une manière amicale, demandant d'évacuer nos maisons pour qu'il nous fût possible d'en prendre possession, mais nos demandes ont été toujours rejetées. De plus, à quatre reprises différentes, certains de nos voisins se sont rendus à Tchollouk pour tenter de nouvelles démarches; les Bulgares les ont renvoyés, non sans les avoir battus et blessés.

Ce n'est pas qu'ils refusent seulement de nous livrer nos maisons; ils ne veulent pas nous donner ce qui nous revient des produits qu'ils ont tirés de nos terres, et nous sommes condamnés ainsi à errer, affamés et sans abri, dans les rues de Philippopoli, ne sachant où donner de la tête, et comment faire pour nous sauver d'une situation aussi malheureuse.

Nous n'espérons qu'en votre Excellence, et nous la prions de daigner prendre en considération le sort qui nous est fait par l'injustice de nos compatriotes Bulgares.

(Suivent les signatures.)

Le $\frac{22 \text{ Septembre}}{4 \text{ Octobre}}$, 1879.

No. 267.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October 21.*)

(No. 298.)

Philippopoli, October 11, 1879.

My Lord,

M. KUMARIANOS, the editor of the "Philippopolis" has this day been condemned to six months' imprisonment for writing the article inclosed in my despatch No. 259, of the 20th ultimo.

He refused to receive the "Acte d'Accusation" except through the channel of the Greek Consulate, whose right to interfere in a matter connected with the press was repudiated by the judicial authorities.

Judgment was, therefore, given by default, and M. Kumarianos has meanwhile taken refuge in the house of the Greek Consul.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 268.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October 21.*)

(No. 871.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 9, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of the Protocol of the fourth meeting of the Commission on the Greek Frontier question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure in No. 268.

Protocole No. 4.—Séance du $\frac{27 \text{ Août}}{10 \text{ Septembre}}$ 1879.

Présents :

Pour la Grèce—
Son Excellence M. A. G. Coundouriotis,
Son Excellence M. P. Braïlas Arméni,
Son Excellence M. Pano Colocotroni.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Altesse Safvet Pacha,
Son Excellence Ali Saïb Pacha,
Son Excellence Sawas Pacha.

LA séance est ouverte à 2 heures de l'après-midi.
Le Protocole No. 3 est approuvé.
Son Altesse Safvet Pacha donne lecture du document suivant :—

La nouvelle Déclaration que les Plénipotentiaires du Gouvernement Royal Hellénique ont lue et déposée dans la séance du $\frac{25 \text{ Août}}{6 \text{ Septembre}}$ a convaincu les Plénipotentiaires du Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman de la nécessité d'une explication plus complète et plus catégorique sur les divergences de vues qui divisent les Représentants des deux Etats. L'examen attentif du contenu de cette Déclaration sera pour les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans l'occasion naturelle non-seulement de justifier leur attitude et leur manière de voir, mais encore d'élucider définitivement la question si laborieusement discutée jusqu'ici au sein de la Conférence.

MM. les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes, répondant à la Déclaration faite dans la deuxième séance par les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans, veulent établir tout d'abord que cette Déclaration se divise en deux parties distinctes, l'une tendant à démontrer que les stipulations du Protocole No. 13 du Congrès de Berlin n'ont aucune force obligatoire et ne contiennent qu'un vœu du Congrès ; et l'autre acceptant comme base des négociations actuelles ces mêmes stipulations sous la réserve de les discuter et de les modifier au besoin.

Les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans considèrent cette division du contenu de leur Déclaration en deux parties indépendantes l'une de l'autre comme le résultat d'une erreur, et comme cette erreur pourrait engendrer quelque malentendu, ils prient leurs collègues de Grèce de vouloir bien constater que la première partie de leur Déclaration est indissolublement liée à la seconde et lui sert d'introduction et de justification en ce sens, qu'elle explique pourquoi la Sublime Porte réserve aux deux parties la faculté de discuter et de modifier les indications du Protocole qu'elle accepte d'ailleurs comme base première des négociations qui vont s'ouvrir.

Les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans sont également obligés de relever que MM. les Plénipotentiaires de Grèce ont très-improprement désigné les indications du Protocole No. 13

par le mot "stipulations," qui implique l'idée d'une Convention formelle qui serait intervenue entre les parties et créerait entre elles des droits et des devoirs, ce qui n'est point le cas.

MM. les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes déclarent ensuite que si le Gouvernement Ottoman regarde le Protocole No. 13 comme n'ayant pour lui aucune force obligatoire, le Gouvernement Hellénique le regarde pour lui—Gouvernement Hellénique—une force obligatoire, et que par conséquent il ne pense pouvoir s'en écarter. Ils ajoutent que la manière de penser de chacune des deux parties sur la force du dit Protocole est un sujet étranger à la question posée par eux à leurs collègues Ottomans, sur l'acceptation ou la non-acceptation du Protocole No. 13 comme base des négociations à entamer.

Ainsi leurs Excellences MM. les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes proclament leur impuissance à s'écarter des indications du Protocole, c'est-à-dire à se départir de la Vallée du Calamas du côté de la Mer Ionienne et de la Vallée du Pénéus du côté de la Mer Egée comme zone-frontière entre l'Empire Ottoman et la Grèce. Ils veulent bien admettre aujourd'hui que la Sublime Porte n'est liée par aucun engagement, mais ils considèrent leur Gouvernemen comme étant lui-même irrévocablement engagé.

Les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans croient pouvoir démontrer à leurs collègues de Grèce que l'obligation qui lierait, suivant eux, leur Gouvernement, n'existe point en réalité. Il suffit pour cela de rappeler les paroles prononcées par le Premier Plénipotentiaire de France au Congrès de Berlin, lorsqu'il a saisi le Congrès d'une proposition pour la rectification de la frontière Hellénique. Le Protocole No. 13 les reproduit ainsi qu'il suit :—

"Le Premier Plénipotentiaire de France croit donc servir également les intérêts des deux pays en proposant au Congrès d'indiquer, d'une manière générale, et sans porter atteinte à la souveraineté de la Porte, les limites qu'il voudrait voir assignées à la Grèce. L'autorité de la Haute Assemblée Européenne donnerait aux deux Gouvernements Ottoman et Grec la force morale nécessaire, au premier pour consentir à des concessions opportunes, au second pour résister à des revendications exagérées. Mais, pour atteindre ce but, son Excellence pense qu'il faut, d'une part, ne point solliciter de la Porte des sacrifices impossibles, de l'autre, faire appel à la modération de la Grèce. Le Premier Plénipotentiaire de France a donc regardé comme utile de tracer comme base aux négociations, une ligne générale montrant à la fois, à la Turquie la mesure des intentions de l'Europe, et à la Grèce les limites qu'elle ne doit point dépasser. Tel est l'objet de la résolution suivante qu'il a l'honneur de soumettre, d'accord avec le Premier Plénipotentiaire d'Italie, aux délibérations du Congrès, &c."

Ces mots, "montrant à la fois à la Turquie la mesure des intentions de l'Europe, et à la Grèce les limites qu'elle ne doit point dépasser," indiquent clairement et sans équivoque que le tracé des Vallées du Calamas et du Pénéus est pour la Grèce un maximum. Il s'ensuit dès lors et non moins logiquement que la Grèce, tenue de respecter ce maximum, est parfaitement libre de ne point l'atteindre et de réduire ses prétentions.

Si toutefois le Gouvernement Hellénique, bien que n'étant point lié par le Congrès de Berlin, veut se considérer lui-même comme engagé afin d'échapper à toute démonstration qui, dans le cours de la discussion, pourrait l'induire à modifier les bases indiquées dans le Protocole No. 13, les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans, tout en regrettant cette résolution, ne croient pas devoir continuer à la combattre, et se bornent à en préciser et à en faire ressortir les graves et inévitables conséquences.

Ces conséquences sont :—

1. Que les Vallées du Calamas et du Pénéus sont hors et au-dessus de toute discussion, puisqu'en supposant que les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans tiennent à démontrer que cette ligne générale est défectueuse et contraire au but proposé et aux intérêts des deux Etats, cette démonstration serait stérile dès l'instant où le Gouvernement Hellénique s'est interdit d'en tenir compte.

2. Que dans ces conditions, la discussion à laquelle les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes et les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans se convient mutuellement, serait superflu et presque dérisoire, puisqu'elle n'aurait d'objet.

3. Qu'enfin, et pour les mêmes raisons, l'invitation réitérée des Plénipotentiaires Hellènes aux Plénipotentiaires Ottomans de déclarer s'ils acceptent les indications du Protocole No. 13 équivaut à l'invitation de céder immédiatement, sans examen ni discussion, au Royaume de Grèce, toute la partie du territoire située au sud des Vallées du Calamas et du Pénéus.

Les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans ne croient pas que la justesse et la rigueur de ces déductions puissent être contestées et sont dès lors autorisés à prier leurs collègues de Grèce de vouloir bien reconnaître combien étaient fondés et nécessaires les réserves dont ils ont accompagné leur acceptation des indications du Protocole No. 13, comme base des négociations actuelles. Ce sont, en effet, ces réserves qui ont amené le Gouvernement

Hellénique à proclamer le caractère, à ces yeux invariable, de ces indications et, comme conséquence, l'inutilité de toute discussion à cet égard.

Ce qui précède répond surabondamment à la dernière partie de la Déclaration Hellénique. Quant à l'interprétation donnée par MM. les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes au mot "base," qui représenterait, suivant eux, quelque chose de fixe et d'immuable que les deux parties ne pourraient ni abandonner, ni modifier, les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans, sans rechercher la valeur de cette définition, se bornent à faire remarquer que les Puissances n'ont pas entendu le mot "base" dans le sens indiqué par les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes, puisque chaque ligne du Protocole démontre qu'elles ont voulu laisser aux parties toute liberté de discussion. Il convient d'ajouter que les Puissances en déclarant être prêtes à offrir leur médiation, en cas de désaccord entre les deux Etats, admettent implicitement que la base indiquée n'est point invariable. Autrement la médiation offerte serait évidemment superflue, car les Puissances, n'ayant pas la faculté de s'écarter de cette base, devraient simplement la confirmer.

En conclusion, les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans déclarent qu'ils ne sauraient répondre à la seconde invitation qui leur est adressée par les Plénipotentiaires du Gouvernement Hellénique qu'en maintenant et en confirmant leur Déclaration précédente lue et déposée dans la séance du $\frac{13}{25}$ Août. Ils constatent de nouveau que cette réponse ne pourrait être conçue dans les termes différents et que l'acceptation pure et simple et sans réserve des indications du Protocole, comme base des négociations, aurait été considéré comme l'équivalent d'une cession territoriale faite à la Grèce au seuil même et en dehors des négociations.

Si les Plénipotentiaires du Gouvernement Hellénique n'avaient point soulevé ce regrettable incident, en produisant leur première Déclaration, les négociations se seraient ouvertes sans difficulté et dans les meilleures conditions pour les deux parties.

En effet, les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans auraient purement et simplement déclaré qu'ils sont prêts à entrer en discussion sur les bases de négociation indiquées au Congrès de Berlin et à rechercher, de concert avec leurs collègues de Grèce, si la ligne générale recommandée par les Puissances répond aux intérêts respectifs des deux Etats ou s'il convient de l'abandonner ou de la modifier, en vue de ces mêmes intérêts.

MM. les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes voudront bien remarquer que ce langage n'est que la reproduction et la confirmation du dernier paragraphe de la précédente Déclaration des Plénipotentiaires Ottomans, portant qu'ils sont disposés, par considération pour le vœu exprimé par les Puissances, à prendre comme bases premières des négociations qui vont s'ouvrir les indications du Protocole No. 13, pourvu qu'il soit bien entendu que ces bases ne lient en aucune façon les deux Gouvernements, qui pourront librement les modifier et les discuter au même titre que tout autre point de départ qui aurait pu être proposé par l'une ou l'autre des parties.

Les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans restent animés des mêmes dispositions loyales et conciliantes et seraient heureux de voir leurs collègues s'associer aujourd'hui à un programme qui repose à la fois—s'ils n'hésitent pas à l'affirmer—sur la vérité et sur la raison.

Que messieurs les Plénipotentiaires du Gouvernement Royal de Grèce veuillent bien considérer qu'en renonçant à un système qui supprime toute discussion utile et en reconnaissant qu'ils ne sont point condamnés à rester sourds à tout argument qui leur serait présenté dans le cours de la discussion ils n'invalident ni n'altèrent en aucune façon le *desideratum* extrême de leur Gouvernement, puisqu'ils resteront toujours maîtres de leurs résolutions. Ils y gagneront de s'être ménagé l'heureuse éventualité d'une entente entre les deux Etats et peut-être l'occasion de réformer eux-mêmes, après examen contradictoire, leurs idées actuelles.

Son Excellence M. Brailas prend la parole non pas pour répondre à un document si savamment élaboré, mais pour relever quelques expressions de ce document qui l'ont frappé. "D'après quelques-unes de ses phrases, on pourrait supposer," dit-il, "que nous avons voulu étouffer la discussion en imposant à la Sublime Porte notre manière de voir sur le caractère du Protocole No. 13, cela n'est pas et cela n'a jamais été notre pensée. Nous avons voulu, au contraire, amener dès le commencement une discussion pratique. Précisons notre position et je désire que les idées émises dans le cours de la discussion ne soient pas détachées des documents déposés, car le tout constitue une unité inséparable." Après avoir lu les phrases qui l'ont frappé, M. Brailas insiste à constater que ce ne sont pas les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes qui ont soulevé la question et fait naître une discussion sur le caractère obligatoire du Protocole No. 13. Ils ont simplement demandé à leurs collègues s'ils l'admettaient comme base des nouvelles négociations et ce sont les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans qui ont soulevé cette question pour repousser le Protocole. Il croit qu'il a rendu avec exactitude la position respective des deux parties. "Maintenant," dit-il,

"il faut aussi se rendre un compte exact de l'idée fondamentale qui a inspiré au Congrès de Berlin le Protocole No. 13. L'idée principale du Congrès a été une idée de conciliation d'apaisement et de garantie pour l'avenir. De là un ensemble de mesures empreintes du même esprit et le Protocole No. 13 est une partie essentielle de cet ensemble. Nous avons donc devant nous un Acte d'une très-grande valeur émanant de l'autorité la plus haute et la plus auguste qui existe et, quant à nous, nous ne saurions mieux témoigner notre respect pour un Acte aussi solennel qu'en nous y conformant. Mais nous l'avons dit dans la séance précédente, nous n'avons pas l'intention de vous imposer le Protocole. Nous vous avons simplement demandé si vous l'acceptez. Or, ceci fait voir, au contraire, que nous vous laissons votre liberté pleine et entière. Au reste, tout cela est inévitable. Nous devons en tout cas prendre un point de départ quelconque. Nous vous avons dit: Prenons le point qui nous unit puisque vous-mêmes vous voulez commencer par-là. Quel est ce point? Les indications du Protocole. Nous n'avons jamais eu l'idée de limiter de quelque manière que ce soit votre liberté. Nous vous avons dit: Acceptez-vous, rejetez-vous, ou modifiez-vous la ligne du Protocole? Nous avons évidemment la même liberté que vous et nous en usons en acceptant cette ligne. Commençons donc par discuter la ligne. Nous sommes d'accord avec vous quant au point de départ. Sur le reste, discutons franchement avec liberté et indépendance."

Son Altesse Safvet Pacha fait remarquer que toute discussion lui semble condamnée d'avance à rester stérile tant que MM. les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes n'auront pas renoncé à s'appuyer en cas de désaccord sur les indications géographiques contenues dans le Protocole No. 13 comme ayant pour leur Gouvernement une force obligatoire. Ce n'est qu'après que le caractère de ces indications aura été bien précisé et bien déterminé d'un commun accord qu'une discussion utile pourra se produire; "car en supposant," ajoute son Altesse, "que les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans parviennent par des arguments irréfutables à démontrer jusqu'à l'évidence que la ligne suggérée par le Congrès de Berlin est défectueuse, les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes ne pourraient se rendre à cette évidence. Ils le voudraient qu'ils ne le pourraient pas dès l'instant où ils se déclarent comme irrévocablement liés. Il est indispensable dès lors, que la question préliminaire soulevé par leurs Excellences MM. les Plénipotentiaires de Grèce sur le caractère des indications du dit Protocole soit tout d'abord résolue."

Son Excellence M. Brailas répond que les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes sont allés encore plus loin que les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans parce que, tout en maintenant leur appréciation ils ont invité leurs collègues à discuter la ligne comme question pratique, tandis que les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans ne veulent pas écarter la question préliminaire, mais la résoudre contre la manière de voir du Gouvernement Royal. "Je crois, du reste," poursuit M. Brailas, "que nous sommes dans une voie où nous pourrons nous rapprocher parce que même dans l'hypothèse de l'adoption de votre point de vue, nous aurions toujours besoin d'une ligne, et n'insistons pas sur le caractère du Protocole. Le Protocole existe et il a sa valeur. Nous ne pouvons pas le mettre à néant. A Prevéza aussi ce n'est pas nous qui avons soulevé la question du Protocole. On vous a demandé si vous acceptez les deux points indiqués par le Protocole. Ces deux points sont sur la carte; vous ne pouvez pas les effacer par la raison qu'ils sont dans le Protocole. Laissons de côté la question de droit et occupons-nous de la question de fait. Supposez qu'il n'y a pas de Protocole et que nous nous sommes réunis spontanément pour nous entendre sur une rectification que nous trouvons nécessaire. Dans ce cas, n'aurions-nous pas le droit de proposer une ligne? Certes oui, et surtout ne préjugez pas notre manière de discuter. Nous vous suivrons dans la voie que vous nous aurez tracée. Nous ne vous dirons plus que nous sommes liés par le Protocole. Nous répondrons à toutes les raisons de fait présentées par vous. Nous répondrons à vos arguments, par des arguments analogues. Nous discuterons le fond sans invoquer le Protocole. Vous dites que le Protocole n'est pas obligatoire pour vous. Vous êtes libres de le considérer comme vous voulez. Pour nous, il a une grande autorité et une grande valeur. Vous ne pouvez pas nous obliger à le considérer autrement. Discutons en pleine liberté et j'espère que nous pourrons nous entendre." En finissant, son Excellence M. Brailas ajoute que ses collègues et lui soumettront au Gouvernement Royal le document dont lecture a été donnée à l'ouverture de la séance.

Son Excellence Sawas Pacha dit qu'il est venu dans la séance avec la ferme intention de ne pas prendre la parole de crainte d'atténuer par des débats oraux la portée du document lu par son Altesse Safvet Pacha. Cependant, il se voit malgré lui dans la nécessité de relever deux points de l'argumentation de son Excellence M. Brailas pour ne pas laisser subsister l'impression qu'ils pourraient produire. Le premier de ces deux points a été soutenu dans une précédente séance et Sawas Pacha l'ayant alors réfuté, il espérait qu'on ne l'invoquerait plus. Ce point consiste dans le reproche qui est fait aux Plénipotentiaires Ottomans de ne pas avoir rigoureusement suivi la ligne tracée par leurs

collègues Helléniques qui n'avaient parlé dans leur première Déclaration que des indications du Protocole No. 13, et d'avoir donné motif en parlant du Protocole lui-même à une discussion théorique. "En d'autres termes," continue son Excellence, "M. Braïlas nous fait le reproche suivant : il nous dit ; nous vous avons interpellé à propos de la valeur des indications convenues dans le Protocole No. 13, tandis que vous, en vous écartant de cette voie pratique que nous vous avons tracée, vous nous avez parlé du Protocole lui-même ; c'est donc vous qui avez soulevé une controverse théorique. Je réponds à son Excellence que je ne puis concevoir la distinction qu'elle veut établir entre le Protocole et son contenu. Pour ne pas être accusé de faire des théories, je me servirai d'une image tout-à-fait matérielle pour prouver que son Excellence M. Braïlas nous demande l'impossible. Je dirai donc que si on nous avait demandé de séparer un tableau de son cadre, je l'aurais compris, mais on nous demande de séparer un tableau de ses ombres. Or, cela est matériellement impossible, comme il est matériellement impossible aussi de séparer le contenu d'un Protocole du Protocole lui-même. Cette question une fois bien éclaircie, voyons, dit Sawas Pacha, comment l'accident préliminaire qui occupe nos séances s'est produit et établissons clairement qui l'a fait naître. A cet effet, il suffit de se reporter à la Déclaration déposée par les Plénipotentiaires Helléniques à la séance d'ouverture de la Conférence. Ce document ne laisse," poursuit-il, "aucun doute sur l'origine de ce malheureux incident. Il a été soulevé tant à Preveza qu'ici même par les Représentants du Gouvernement Hellénique, qui nous ont adressé une demande claire et précise conçue dans ces termes :—'. . . . . Que les Plénipotentiaires du Gouvernement Hellénique doivent reprendre les négociations du point où elles ont été interrompues à Preveza, que les négociations en question ayant été rompues à cause de la divergence d'opinion entre les Commissaires du Gouvernement Hellénique déclarant qu'ils ne pouvaient procéder à aucune entente sur la détermination de la nouvelle ligne-frontière du royaume qui ne serait pas basée sur les stipulations du Protocole No. 13.' Voici," dit Sawas Pacha, "la déclaration absolue faite par les Commissaires Hellènes à Preveza. Voici le point précis où nos honorables collègues veulent reprendre les négociations à Constantinople. Ils ont soin de nous déclarer non moins nettement. Ils nous disent : 'Les Plénipotentiaires du Gouvernement Hellénique, sur le point de reprendre avec les Plénipotentiaires du Gouvernement Ottoman les négociations rompues à Preveza, ont l'honneur de les prier de vouloir bien déclarer de leur côté s'ils acceptent comme base de cette reprise les déterminations du Protocole No. 13, à savoir : la Vallée du Calamas en Epire et celle de Pénéus en Thessalie."

Telle était la pressante et rigoureuse demande qui nous était posée au début de nos travaux par nos honorables collègues de Grèce. A cette demande nous devions répondre. Notre réponse devait préciser exactement la valeur des indications du Protocole No. 13. Cette valeur où fallait-il la chercher, où pourrions-nous la trouver si ce n'est dans le Protocole lui-même. Voici pourquoi nous avons dû parler, comme le dit son Excellence M. Braïlas, du Protocole. Pour être cependant correct, il ne faut pas dire que nous avons parlé du Protocole. A une demande aussi grave que celle qui nous a été adressée, nous n'avons pas voulu répondre nous-mêmes. Aussi avons-nous voulu faire répondre pour nous les éminents hommes d'Etat qui ont siégé au Congrès de Berlin. C'est pourquoi nous avons fait parler non-seulement le Protocole No. 13, mais tous ceux qui résument leur pensée et leurs paroles. Voyons à présent quelle est la portée et les conséquences pratiques de la Déclaration à laquelle nous avons dû répondre par la voix du Protocole.

Bien que les termes de "stipulations" et de "déterminations" qui y sont contenues et la phrase qui dit, "qu'on ne peut procéder à aucune entente sur la détermination de la nouvelle ligne-frontière du Royaume qui ne serait point basée sur les stipulations du Protocole No. 13," indiquent l'extrême gravité et le caractère comminatoire du document déposé par nos honorables collègues à notre première séance. Son Excellence M. Braïlas nous dit aujourd'hui, je suis heureux de le constater, qu'il n'invoquera plus le Protocole de Berlin, qu'il n'opposera pas un *non possumus* tiré de ce Protocole à nos arguments, et qu'il voudra bien nous répondre par des arguments analogues aux nôtres ; mais est-il libre de le faire ? Je soutiens que non, et je le prouve. Les Plénipotentiaires Helléniques ne sont pas effectivement liés par les indications du Protocole No. 13, mais ils le sont par les termes rigoureux et inluctables de leur propre Déclaration. Ce que M. Braïlas dit aujourd'hui de vouloir faire, il a, j'en suis convaincu, le désir et la loyale intention de le faire ; mais le moment venu, lui sera-t-il possible de s'affranchir des liens que crée pour son Excellence le document en question ? Je ne le pense pas, car il lui serait impossible d'assumer une pareille responsabilité sans faire disparaître un préalable, et par un acte officiel, un obstacle si officiellement élevé. Je ne saurais donc trop engager MM. les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes à adopter notre manière de voir, et à faire disparaître cet empêchement, soit en retirant leurs déclarations, soit de n'importe quelle autre manière.

Le second point de l'argumentation de M. Braïlas qu'il importe de réfuter sans délai est le suivant :—Son Excellence a dit que les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans ont en quelque sorte reproché à leurs collègues Helléniques d'avoir voulu étouffer la discussion. Ce n'est pas exact. On n'étouffe qu'une chose qui vit et qui respire, et moi je soutiens que les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes empêchent la discussion de naître par le document dont je viens d'apprécier la valeur et les conséquences. Que ce document soit écarté, que la discussion naisse, et c'est alors seulement que les uns pourront dire aux autres qu'ils cherchent à l'étouffer. Aujourd'hui, ce qu'il me tarde à voir, c'est la disparition des obstacles qui rendent toute discussion impossible.

M. Colocotroni dit que le document dont il vient d'entendre lecture l'a frappé. "Dans aucun cas," poursuit-il, "le mot 'maximum' ne peut s'appliquer aux aspirations de la Grèce. Son Excellence M. Waddington, par l'indication de la ligne qui doit être tracée pour concilier les intérêts des deux Etats, a voulu montrer quelles sont les concessions que la Turquie doit faire, et elle peut les considérer, si elle veut, comme un maximum. La preuve en est que le Premier Plénipotentiaire de France a fait appel à la modération de la Grèce, et lorsqu'on fait appel à la modération de quelqu'un on l'invite à se contenter de moins de ce qu'il demande. Une fois que la Grèce s'est rendue à cette invitation, il est évident qu'elle s'est éloignée du maximum. MM. les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans peuvent donc s'appliquer à eux-mêmes le mot 'maximum ;' mais il ne saurait trop le répéter, ce 'maximum' est pour les aspirations de la Grèce un 'minimum.'"

Son Altesse Safvet Pacha s'étonne que son honorable collègue, M. Colocotroni, puisse donner cette interprétation aux termes du Protocole dont il est fait mention dans le document qu'il a lu au commencement de cette séance, alors que ces termes sont explicites, et qu'ils ne sauraient donner lieu à aucun équivoque.

Son Excellence M. Braïlas répond que le but de l'Europe n'a pas été de poser un maximum ou un minimum, mais d'indiquer simplement ce que la Turquie et la Grèce dans leur intérêt réciproque doivent faire.

Son Altesse Safvet Pacha réplique qu'en indiquant à la Grèce les limites qu'elle ne devait pas dépasser, le Congrès a voulu laisser aux deux Gouvernements le soin de s'entendre entre eux dans l'intérieur, c'est-à-dire, en deçà des deux vallées.

Son Excellence M. Colocotroni répète que ce que MM. les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans appellent "maximum" la Grèce le regarde comme un "minimum." "Du reste," ajoute-t-il, "son Excellence M. Braïlas a bien défini la situation."

Son Excellence Sawas Pacha fait observer que cette question a été soulevée subsidiairement, et non pas pour être débattue ou résolue.

"L'intention des Plénipotentiaires Ottomans était," dit-il, "de prouver par un argument de plus que la Grèce n'était pas liée, mais ils ne peuvent pas aborder cette question de fond avant de résoudre l'incident préliminaire soulevé par les honorables collègues, attendu que sans cela il ne leur est pas possible, comme ils l'ont plusieurs fois répété, d'entrer en matière."

Son Excellence M. Colocotroni, reprenant la parole, constate que la Déclaration remise à la première séance, à laquelle il n'assistait pas, par ses collègues, était très-naturelle et très-nécessaire, parce qu'elle donnait suite aux déclarations des Commissaires de la Sublime Porte à Preveza, qui considéraient comme inacceptables les bases du Protocole No. 13 du Congrès de Berlin.

Son Excellence M. Braïlas, répondant à Sawas Pacha, fait remarquer que les derniers mots de la Déclaration Hellénique n'ont pas le sens que son Excellence leur a donné, et à l'appui de ce qu'il avance il lit la phrase contenant les mots en question, le mot "détermination," dit-il, "a deux sens ; il veut dire : se résoudre pour tel ou tel motif ; il veut dire aussi 'indication,' 'circonscription.' Je crois que les mots qui existaient dans la Déclaration sont simples et clairs. 'Base' ne veut pas dire tout l'édifice, mais 'point de départ ;' et un point de départ est nécessaire. Cette base, du reste, a été admise aussi par la Déclaration Ottomane." Il croit donc inutile de répéter tout ce qu'il a eu déjà l'occasion de développer précédemment, et qui répond à l'argumentation de son Excellence.

Son Excellence Sawas Pacha réplique ainsi : "Son Excellence M. Braïlas conviendra avec moi qu'à propos d'intérêts majeurs et de graves responsabilités on ne saurait trop se prémunir où trop s'expliquer. L'interprétation qu'il vient de donner au mot 'détermination' est pour le cas qui nous occupe le plus convenable. Je suis heureux de l'avoir de tout temps compris comme M. Braïlas. La preuve en est que soit dans les pièces écrites que nous avons déposées ici, soit dans nos discours, nous avons toujours dit que par cette Déclaration on nous demandait la cession sans discussion d'un territoire 'déterminé.' C'est juste ce qui fait l'extrême gravité de ce document. Ici je ferai remarquer qu'on ne doit pas scinder les documents afin d'en séparer les conclusions des prémices. Il n'y a point en

effet des conclusions sans prémices. Un document de cette nature, comme tout autre, du reste, doit être pris sans son entier pour être compris et évalué. Le mot 'détermination,' qui se trouve à la fin du document, est placé là comme conséquence logique de ce qui précède. Or, en nous y reportant à quelques lignes plus haut, nous constatons que leurs Excellences les Plénipotentiaires Helléniques ont agi absolument comme leurs prédécesseurs de Preveza, et qu'ils ont voulu nous faire faire ici ce que nos Commissaires n'ont pas voulu faire à Preveza, c'est-à-dire nous faire accepter les indications du Protocole No. 13 comme obligatoires; en d'autres termes, nous faire signer dès notre première séance la cession du territoire déterminé qu'ils nous demandent.

"A cette Déclaration, je ne saurais trop le constater, nous avons répondu de la façon la plus conciliante en nous basant sur les Protocoles mêmes et en donnant une nouvelle preuve de déférence aux vœux de l'Europe.

"Cette réponse, qui ouvrait la voie à la discussion et qui devait être acceptée avec empressement a été malheureusement repoussé par un second document reproduisant avec plus de force les sommations premières. C'est ainsi que nous avons été forcés à faire une dernière réplique concluant comme de nature à la nécessité de l'annulation des deux Déclarations de nos honorables collègues.

Il me reste un mot à dire: Son Excellence M. Braïlas affirme aujourd'hui que 'base' ne signifie pas 'tout l'edifice' mais bien un point de départ. Si je ne me trompe pas il répète nos propres paroles. Cette base première des négociations, point de départ d'une discussion utile, nous l'avons offerte par notre première réponse. Les Plénipotentiaires Helléniques n'ont qu'à déclarer qu'ils en acceptent les conclusions et l'incident se trouvera vidé."

Son Excellence M. Braïlas répondant, dit qu'il résulterait des paroles de son Excellence Sawas Pacha que la discussion ne serait possible que si le Protocole était invalidé.

Son Excellence Sawas Pacha répond que telle n'a jamais été sa pensée. Il demande l'invalidation des Déclarations Helléniques et non point du Protocole. "Nous avons parlé du Protocole," dit-il, "ou plutôt nous vous l'avons fait parler parce que nous le comprenions comme il doit être compris, comme il a été compris par les éminents hommes d'Etat dont il résume les pensées. Loin de vouloir l'invalider nous l'invoquons à chaque instant. Car c'est grâce à ce Protocole que nous avons prouvé que nous avions raison et que nos honorables collègues avaient tort."

Son Excellence M. Braïlas se résume: "Tout ce qui s'est passé à Preveza," dit-il, "est de l'histoire, et il ést inutile d'y revenir. Pour reprendre les négociations actuelles, il fallait écarter l'obstacle, la pierre d'achoppement qui a fait échouer les premières négociations. Cet obstacle est la divergence des opinions quant au point de départ. Nous vous avons demandé: 'Voulez-vous accepter notre ligne?' C'est son Altesse Safvet Pacha qui a pris l'initiative de cette manière pratique de traiter la question, et il a dit, je le constate avec plaisir: 'Nous perdons notre temps, entrons en matière.' J'ai félicité son Altesse de cette disposition conciliante. Mais jusqu'à présent vous n'avez pas voulu en accepter les conséquences. Nous pouvons garder chacun notre manière de voir et tout de même discuter. Vous avez là comme nous les Protocoles de Berlin. Vous avez vu que tous les hommes d'Etat de l'Europe ont reconnu que la question de rectification de frontières entre les deux Etats est une question essentielle. Ils sont convenus d'un ensemble de mesures dont la rectification est partie intégrante. Ils ont cru qu'il fallait pour cela faire un Protocole, mais outre le Protocole, nous avons l'Article XXIV du Traité, qui parle de la médiation, et dont le Protocole est inséparable. En vertu de tout cela, on nous a invité à négocier; nous avons assez discuté sur la question de droit; c'est-à-dire si le Protocole est obligatoire ou non. Son Altesse a eu l'heureuse idée de nous proposer d'entrer dans l'examen pratique de la question. Ne parlons donc plus du Protocole et entrons en matière. Discutons franchement et avec un peu de bonné volonté," conclut M. Braïlas; "j'espère que nous nous entendrons."

Son Excellence Sawas Pacha fait observer que les Conférences de Preveza n'ont point été invoquées par les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans. Quant aux exhortations de son Altesse le Président, on n'a qu'à les lire dans nos procès-verbaux pour voir qu'elles n'ont pas été exactement résumées par l'honorable préopinant, et qu'on ne peut pas en tirer la conclusion que son Excellence en tire. Au restant du résumé de son Excellence, ce qui a été dit et surtout le document déposé aujourd'hui, répondent plus que suffisamment. Il ne me reste donc qu'à déclarer de nouveau que personne plus que les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans et leur Gouvernement ne professe un si haut respect pour l'autorité qui s'attache aux paroles prononcées par les hommes d'Etat éminents qui étaient réunis à Berlin, et que ce respect s'est constamment manifesté pendant nos séances, puisque les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans ont toujours fait parler soit dans leurs Déclarations écrites soit dans leurs explications verbales l'illustre aréopage Européen.

Son Altesse Safvet Pacha prenant une dernière fois la parole, lit la Déclaration suivante en la proposant à l'acceptation des Plénipotentiaires Helléniques:

"Les Plenipotentiaires Ottomans constatent avec plaisir que leurs collègues de Grèce sont disposés à s'approcher des idées émises par eux et à entrer en matière en considérant les indications du Protocole No. 13 comme susceptibles de discussion et de modifications."

Leurs Excellences MM. les Plénipotentiaires Helléniques prenant cette Déclaration *ad referendum*, proposent l'ajournement de la séance jusqu'à la réception des instructions qu'ils demanderont à leur Gouvernement.

Cette proposition est acceptée, et la séance est levée à 4 heures.

(Signé) A. G. COUNDOURIOTIS.
P. BRAÏLAS ARMÉNI.
P. TH. COLOCOTRONI.
SAFVET.
ALI SAÏB.
SAWA.

No. 269.

Captain Sale to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 21.)

(No. 25. Political.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 11, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose Protocols Nos. 24, 25, and 26 of the Montenegrin Boundary Commission.

I have delayed sending these Protocols as they would have been unintelligible without a map.

It has been necessary to compile this map, since the last séance of the Commission, from a number of separate sketches.

It is now finished, and a rough tracing is forwarded herewith. This tracing is not intended for reproduction.

The original maps, showing all the work of the Commission, which are intended for reproduction, will be forwarded by the Queen's Messenger, who leaves Her Britannic Majesty's Embassy on the 21st instant.

With these maps a further communication will be sent.

The Protocols now inclosed are very diffuse, owing to the length of the *mémoires* which the interested parties deemed it necessary to annex, but the references on the inclosed tracing give at a glance the results attained.

I would, however, bring to your Lordship's notice the following expression used in Protocol No. 26, viz.:—

"Quant à la frontière totale de la Kuchka Krania, la Commission admet les limites fixées au Protocole No. 25, sauf modifications indiquées par M. le Colonel Kaulbars."

The meaning intended to be conveyed is, that the Commission adopt the line furnished by the Topographical Sub-Commission in Protocol No. 25, to the exclusion of the variation thereon indicated by Colonel Kaulbars; but the sentence in question is rather obscurely worded, and might be taken to have an opposite meaning.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. T. SALE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 269.

Protocole No. 24.—Séance du 6 Septembre, 1879.

Étaients présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Capitaine Testa.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Consul-Général Lippich,
M. le Capitaine Sauerwald.

Pour la France—
M. le Consul-Général Comte Colonna Ceccaldi,
M. le Baron d'Estournelles de Constant.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Capitaine Sale,
M. le Lieutenant Caillard.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Ottolenghi,

Pour le Monténégro—
M. Simo Popovic,
M. Nico Matanovich.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Baron Nicolas Kaulbars I.

Pour la Turquie—
M. le Général de Brigade Véli Riza Pacha,
M. le Consul-Général Danish Effendi,
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Bedri Bey,
M. l'Adjutant-Major Sabri Bey.

LA séance est ouverte à 9 heures du matin.

Le Protocole de la séance précédente est lu et approuvé.

Le Président rappelle que, conformément aux décisions prises dans la séance précédente, la Sous-Commission s'est rendue à Korita et environs pour y faire les levers et travaux nécessaires. A son retour, la Commission a été convoquée aujourd'hui.

L'ordre du jour appelle la discussion sur la ligne de la rive orientale du Lac de Scutari au Zem.

La Délégation Ottomane, se conformant à l'esprit et à la lettre du Traité de Berlin, prend, à partir du lac, la ligne de Plavnica, dont l'identité a été constatée sur le terrain, et passant par le moulin, dit de Hadji Moukhtar et à Voïna, la fait aboutir au monticule de Boïan, situé sur la Kakaritchka-Gora, laissant intacts à l'Albanie les terrains de la tribus de Gruda.

Le Commissaire de Russie fait remarquer à la Commission que le plan présenté par MM. les Commissaires Ottomans comprend une grande partie des populations Slaves et Orthodoxes, que le Congrès laisse au Monténégro.

Le Commissaire Monténégrin présente la Déclaration suivante :—

"Avant de nous prononcer sur la ligne qui est à l'ordre du jour de la séance d'aujourd'hui, nous constatons avant tout que le Congrès de Berlin a été, dans la détermination de cette ligne, guidé par le principe de séparation de deux élémenls Serbe et Albanais, ce qui est clairement exprimé dans l'Article XXVIII du Traité par les mots, 'laissant à l'Albanie les tribus de Klimenti, Gruda, et Hoti.'

"D'après cela, le terrain étant aujourd'hui connu, et nous référant aux enquêtes et aux études faites par la Commission concernant les limites des tribus, nous sommes en état de déclarer—

"1. Les tribus des Grouda et Hoti vivent sur le territoire qui est à l'est de la ceinture des montagnes qui s'étendent depuis le Houm jusqu'à la Cievna, et qui séparent ces tribus de la plaine de la Zéta, quelle que soit sa religion. Elles ont un caractère tout-à-fait propre, ne payent aucun impôt à l'Empire, et sont à la guerre sous leur propre drapeau. Les Turcs de la plaine de la Zéta, au contraire, ont toujours été sous la domination Impériale directe, représentée à Podgorica; ils ont payé les impôts et n'ont jamais reçus,

ni par les Hoti, ni par les Groudi, sous leurs drapeaux. Toute la Zéta était séparée, au double point de vue administratif et territorial, des tribus des montagnes Hoti et Grouda, et avait Podgorica pour centre de son administration.

"2. Il y a un certain nombre de maisons Turques qui sont originaires des Groudi, et qui se sont établies dans la Zéta; mais cette immigration a eu lieu à des époques éloignées; ces familles sont venues d'abord à Podgorica, d'où elles ont émigré comme Podgoritziennes, sur les biens qu'elles avaient achetés, et elles ont depuis le temps perdu tout rapport avec les Groudi. A Podgorica il y a beaucoup de familles Turques, depuis longtemps venues de Groudi, et même il y a eu de ces familles qui s'étaient établies à Nikchitch, dont un quartier s'appelait pour ce motif "Groudska Mahala." Mais il n'est jamais venu à l'idée de personne, ni aux Groudi eux-mêmes, de comprendre Podgorica et Nikchitch dans la tribu du Groudi.

"3. Pour appuyer le témoignage et les dépositions que les habitants ont faits devant la Commission, nous déposons ici un Rapport fidèle et détaillé pour être annexé au Protocole (Annexe 1 au présent Protocole), et d'après lequel on peut voir que presque toute la plaine de la Zéta appartient aux Zetciani et aux Podgoritziens; que dans les villages de Matagouche et de Gotchitei, habitent exclusivement des Serbes Orthodoxes, et qu'à Vrany plus de la moitié des habitants sont Orthodoxes; en effet, il y a dans ce village vingt maisons Serbes Orthodoxes, sur treize maisons Musulmanes, et sur trois maisons Catholiques. Des constatations semblables peuvent se faire pour Chipchanik et Miteschc, dans le mémoire indiqué ci-dessus. Pour prouver ce que nous avançons, nous possédons en langue Turque des documents écrits sur le recouvrement des impôts dans la Zéta, pendant l'occupation Turque, et les principaux Turcs de Podgorica ont déclaré qu'ils étaient prêts à témoigner que tout le terrain appartient aux Zetciani et aux Podgoritziens, à l'exception de la partie qui se trouve aux pieds de Hum, où ils possèdent aussi des terres confondues avec celles des Hoti. De plus, cette occupation de la partie est de la Zéta par les Hoti, a son histoire. Moustapha Pacha, de Scutari, s'était, il y a quatre-vingt-dix ans, emparé illégalement, de concert avec Hussani, Hoti des terrains aux pieds de Houm: plus tard, Hassan Hoti les distribuait aux habitants de sa tribu, afin de mieux les gagner et de les avoir toujours sous la main dans les guerres contre le Monténégro.

"4. Toutes les fois qu'on parle des tribus, on entend toujours le terrain des montagnes. En effet, dans l'Annexe No. 1 au Protocole No. 10, qui a servi de base à la rédaction de l'Article XXVIII du Traité, il est expressément dit, "laissant à l'Albanie les tribus montagnardes des Klémenti, Grouda, et Hoti," habité par ces tribus mêmes, de sorte que si, par hasard, quelques individus de la tribu possédaient des propriétés dans la plaine, cela ne signifie nullement que les propriétés achetées par ces individus font partie intégrante de la tribu; en effet, il est connu par tout le monde que les habitants de certaines montagnes descendent l'hiver dans les plaines, qui se trouvent même à une grande distance de leur territoire, sans que les endroits où ils se déplacent rentrent dans les limites de leur tribu. Les Klémenti et les Schkréli, par exemple, descendent l'hiver dans la plaine de la Zadrima, à Alessia, et aussi dans la contrée située entre la rive droite de la Baïana et Dulcigno. Il est certain que, si le Traité de Berlin avait laissé au Monténégro tout le territoire jusqu'à la Baïana, on n'aurait pas certainement pu interpréter la phrase "laissant à l'Albanie les tribus montagnardes" dans le sens de lui laisser aussi les terrains de la plaine, où ces tribus descendent l'hiver, parce que ces territoires sont tout-à-fait en dehors des montagnes qu'elles habitent, et dont elles tirent leur dénomination.

"5. De plus, il résulte de l'esprit général et des discussions qui ont eu lieu au sein du Congrès, que les Plénipotentiaires réunis, avant toute question de religion et de race, ont voulu établir la frontière suivant une ligne bien marquée, en donnant des positions défensives à chaque Etat, pour éviter dans l'avenir des conflits dangereux entre les Etats limitrophes. Or, l'importance militaire de Podgorica, depuis sa cession au Monténégro, est tout-à-fait changée. En effet, en laissant à la Turquie les positions de Chipchanik, de Milesh, et les hauteurs de Dinosh, cette ville se trouverait complétement à la merci de la Turquie, et le Monténégro n'aurait pas, du côté de l'Albanie, une seule position défensive qui lui permettrait de couvrir cette ville, et même serait réduit, au premier danger, à se retrancher dans ses anciennes frontières pour pouvoir se défendre. D'un autre côté, la Turquie, en abandonnant les collines sus-mentionnées, ne manque pas de hauteurs dominantes, telles que celles qui s'étendent depuis le Hum jusqu'au Dateic."

D'après ce qui précède, et ayant strictement egard aux tribus des Hoti et des Groudi, la nouvelle frontière du Monténégro irait du lac, depuis le point que le Congrès a fixé sur la Carte de l'Etat-Major Autrichien, vers la Cjevna, en suivant une direction d'après laquelle les collines de la plaine Vrany, Chipchanik, et Ragami resteraient au Monténégro.

Danish Effendi remarque que le Commissaire du Monténégro perd complétement de vue le Traité de Berlin, qui fait partir de Plavinica la ligne à suivre dans la plaine de Podgorica. Ce Traité n'a aucunement attribué toute la plaine de Podgorica au Monténégro. D'un autre côté, la question d'impôts que M. Papovic invoque, n'est guère probante, attendu que le Gouvernement Ottoman, prenant en considération la pauvreté du sol des montagnes, les a exonéré de certains impôts, à la charge pour les Chrétiens des tribus de lui donner des hommes d'armes en cas de guerre; là où les tribus empiétent dans la plaine, il est de règle absolue que les terrains qu'elles possèdent restent soumis aux mêmes contributions que les propriétés qui les limitent et qui appartiennent à des districts non privilégiés. Riza Pacha dans son tracé a eu surtout en vue de sauvegarder les propriétés de la tribu de Grouda, et si les circonstances l'amènent à s'écarter de ce principe, il n'entame que des propriétés Ottomanes, appartenant à des Ottomanes qui ont émigré à Scutari, et qui désirent que leurs biens situés en dehors de la zone de Podgorica même, continuent à faire partie du territoire de l'Empire. La Délégation Monténégrine parle aussi de villages de langue Slave et de religion Chrétienne. Danish Effendi doit observer itérativement que la mission Ottomane a tenu à conserver intacte la frontière de Grouda; d'ailleurs, elle suit le tracé indiqué par le Traité de Berlin.

Le Commissaire de France voudrait offrir à ses collègues un terrain de transactions qui pût ramener les opinions dissidentes.

Les termes mêmes du Traité de Berlin obligent la Commission au respect de l'intégrité des tribus des Klémenti, Grouda, et Hoti. Le Commissaire de France a retenu des interrogations faites le 11 Août sur Vrany que ces collines appartiennent au village de ce nom. Or, de quoi se compose ce village? D'après les mêmes interrogations, la population y est mêlée; on y trouve sur 30 à 36 maisons, un tiers environ de Catholiques.

Grouda un tiers de Musulmans (qu'il n'est pas prouvé qu'on doive considérer comme appartenant à la tribu des Groudi); un tiers enfin de Slaves Orthodoxes, qui n'appartiennent à aucun degré à cette tribu. Une constatation de genre analogue pourrait se faire pour les collines de Chipchanik et Rogami.

Chipchanik compte six maisons principales. Une de ces maisons avec les terrains est la propriété de Sélim l'Hassewitch de Podgorica; les autres étaient, il y a trente ans, propriétés de gens de Podgorica, et furent rendus peu à peu aux gens de Groudi et de Tusi.

Rogami a deux maisons et des terres avoisinant, mais la maison principale et le terrain y appartenant, sont la propriété de Chaban Adjovitch, de Podgorica.

L'autre maison, fort petite, appartient à Husseim Koutekar, de Groudi. Faut-il admettre que l'intégrité des tribus de Groudi serait détruite si la possession entière des trois collines sus-nommées ne lui étaient pas attribuées. Le Commissaire de France ne le pense pas. Il est d'avis que cette intégrité soit entendue dans un sens raisonnable. Ainsi dans les propositions Austro-Hongroises annexées au Protocole No. 10 du Congrès de Berlin, propositions qui, dans leur rédaction presque textuelle, ont produit l'Article XXVIII du Traité de Berlin, il était dit "qu'on laisserait à l'Albanie les tribus montagnardes des Klémenti, Hoti, et Groudi. Le mot "montagnarde" exprime bien, suivant M. le Commissaire de France, que la Haute Assemblée avait en vue les tribus constituées dans leur montagne, dans leur centre essentiel, et non toute extension par voie d'acquisitions de propriétés privées de ces tribus dans la plaine. Ce point de vue s'impose si bien que personne sauf les Délégués Ottomans ne semblent avoir admis que l'intégrité des tribus Montagnardes Albanaises puissent être prise dans un sens aussi abusif.

Le Commissaire de France voit les plus fortes raisons pour que le même point de vue soit adopté en ce qui concerne les collines de Vrany, Chipchanik et Rogami, non-seulement parce que ces collines, comme il vient de le dire, ne sont pas exclusivement la propriété des gens de Groudi, mais encore parce qu'il y a lieu de tenir compte ici de considérations stratégiques d'une haute importance. Les collines qu'on vient de nommer dominent en effet la plaine de la Zéta et de Podgorica; elles commandent tout le terrain jusqu'au portes de la ville, et les laisser à la Turquie serait lui remettre la domination des territoires que le Congrès attribue au Monténégro. Laisser ces collines au Monténégro n'enlèverait au contraire rien à la force défensive essentielle de la ligne-frontière Turque, puisque cette ligne, établie depuis le Hum jusqu'à Dinosh sur des hauteurs formidables, domine de plusieurs centaines de mètres les petites collines dont il s'agit. Toutefois le Commissaire de France ne propose pas d'attribuer ces collines au Monténégro, car il ne croirait pas rester ainsi dans l'esprit de conciliation que dicte sa proposition. Il se borne à demander que la ligne-frontière passe par le milieu des dites collines, les attribuant par moitiés à chacun des deux pays, suivant la ligne tracée en bleu sur la carte ci-jointe. Il sera en outre stipulé qu'aucune fortification ne pourra être maintenue ni créée, aucune garnison ou aucun poste militaire établi sur les collines de Vrany, Chipchanik, et Rogami, et sur celle de Milesh.

Son Excellence Riza Pacha se réserve de répondre à la prochaine séance au Mémoire de M. le Commissaire de France.

Danish Effendi ne saurait cependant s'abstenir de faire remarquer à la Commission que M. le Comte Colonna Ceccaldi, dans la ligne qu'il indique, non-seulement s'écarte du Traité de Berlin, mais ne prend pas en considération que les limites réelles des tribus doivent être respectées. Or, ces tribus dans la Plaine de Podgorica, comme d'autres tribus de la Plaine de Scutari, possèdent des terres qui font partie intégrante de leur territoire, et sans lesquels leur bien-être serait gravement compromis. Elles doivent donc les conserver si on désire suivre les règles du droit et de l'équité.

Le Commissaire de Grande Bretagne propose de prendre chaque point principal de la ligne à déterminer, pour le discuter et le fixer à part et successivement; par exemple, dans l'ordre suivant:—

1. Point d'attache au lac.
2. Du lac aux collines de Vrany.
3. De Vrany à Chipchanik.
4. De Chipchanik à Milesh.
5. De Milesh au Zem.
6. De Zem à un point à prendre sur les montagnes.

Le Président appuie cette proposition, et soumet à la discussion le point d'attache à la rive orientale du lac.

Le Commissaire Britannique observe que d'un côté le texte du Traité dit Plavnica, mais que, d'autre part, il dit aussi, "laissant à l'Albanie les tribus de Grouda et Hoti." En présence des interprétations contradictoires que provoque ce rapprochement, il est d'avis qu'il faut adopter le Plavnica de la Carte Autrichienne, qui lui semble se rapprocher d'avantage de la frontière des tribus.

Le Capitaine Sale ajoute que cette décision serait l'application du principe adopté par la Commission en sa deuxième séance.

Le Commissaire de Turquie s'en tient au village même de Plavnica, vu qu'il existe en fait sur le terrain, en remarquant que le Traité n'a pas dit de suivre les limites des tribus, mais de se diriger sur Plavnica, en laissant, &c.

Le Président, après avoir consulté les autres membres de la Commission, propose, en conséquence, le point d'attache au lac (rive orientale) en se fixant au Plavnica de la Carte Autrichienne, latitude 42° 16′ 45″, longitude est de Paris 16° 56′ 36″, point correspondant à peu près à l'embouchure du Patak Stanitza.

Les Commissaires d'Allemagne, d'Autriche-Hongrie, de France, de Grande Bretagne, et de Russie votent pour le point.

Les Commissaires de Turquie votent contre, ainsi que les Commissaires du Monténégro.

Le Premier Commissaire Monténégrin motive son vote en disant qu'il s'en tient au point d'attache de la Carte Autrichienne qui se trouve à 3½ kilom. à l'est du point proposé.

Le Commissaire d'Italie se rallie à la majorité, en déclarant qu'il aurait préféré le même point d'attache.

Le Commissaire de Russie dit qu'il a voté pour ce point d'attache uniquement parce que le Stanitza Potak constitue pour lui un point topographique.

En conséquence le point ci-dessus déterminé est adopté à la majorité de 6 voix contre 2.

Après la lecture d'un mémoire ci-joint (Annexe 2 au présent Protocole), présenté par le Commissaire de Russie à l'appui de son tracé au lac à Dinosh, une discussion générale s'engage sur la question des collines de Vrany, Chipchanik, et Milesh.

Le Commissaire d'Angleterre fait remarquer que la Carte Autrichienne laisse ces collines à la Turquie.

Il constate d'autre part que Matagas appartient sans doute à Podgorica. Au point de vue stratégique le Capitaine Sale accorde que les collines de la plaine sont une menace pour Podgorica, mais il fait valoir également qu'elles couvrent le chemin militaire Ottoman, qui va du Hum à la vallée du Zem.

Le Commissaire de Russie répond à cette dernière observation que le chemin qui mène du Hum au Zem, n'est un chemin militaire que parce qu'il passe actuellement derrière les collines occupées par les troupes Ottomanes, et qu'il perdra toute valeur stratégique si ces collines sont attribuées au Monténégro.

Danish Effendi objecte que cette attribution aurait pour effet de fermer pour la Turquie l'accès à ces tribus du côté du lac.

Le Commissaire d'Angleterre rappelle à l'appui de cette observation que le Zem est

en effet le chemin naturel Ottoman pour les troupes comme pour les tribus, jusqu'à la vallée de cette rivière.

Le Commissaire de France reconnaît que ces collines ne sont pas sans aucune importance militaire, mais, selon lui, il ne faut par perdre de vue que la Turquie conserve en tous cas ses positions de Mala Hoti et du Hum, tandis que, privés de collines, les Monténégrins restent sans aucun point de défense de ce côté.

A la suite de cette discussion, *le Président*, divisant la question, met aux voix le tracé suivant:—

"La frontière part directement du point qui vient d'être voté, et va aboutir en ligne droite à la crête de Vrany (celle qui est située au sud, et la première des crêtes fortifiées); elle continue en passant par le sommet des crêtes de ce système de collines, le petit monticule isolé restant à la Turquie."

Les Commissaires d'Angleterre, d'Autriche-Hongrie, et de France adoptent ce tracé.

Les Commissaires de Turquie et du Monténégro votent contre.

Le Commissaire d'Allemagne s'abstient.

Le Commissaire de Russie réserve son vote.

Le Commissaire d'Italie dit que, en présence de la difficulté à arriver à un résultat, il adhère au vote de ses collègues d'Angleterre, d'Autriche, et de France, en déclarant toutefois qu'il aurait préféré voir la ligne passer par l'ensemble du système des collines.

En conséquence, le tracé en question est adopté par 4 voix contre 2.

Le bureau constate une abstention et une voix réservée.

Le séance est levée à midi et demie.

Fait à Podgorica le 6 Septembre, 1879.

(Signé) TESTA.
LIPPICH.
COLONNA CECCALDI.
M. T. SALE.
OTTOLENGHI.
POPOVIC.
KAULBARS.
RIZA.

Annexe 1 au Protocole No. 24.

Mémoire adressé à la Commission par la Délégation Monténégrine.

Podgorica, le 6 Septembre, 1879.

1. Govedgi-Brod. On appelle Govedgi-Brod toute la partie du terrain qui s'étend depuis Gashlié et Boroumada d'un côté et Lumsko de l'autre. Le Sobov-Suba (puits de Sobov) et le Patak (ruisseau) Stanitza divise cette étendue de terrain en deux parties illégales: l'un de deux tiers, l'autre d'un tiers. Les deux tiers qui sont sur la rive droite du ruisseau, près Cette, et, du côté occidental, et comprenant environ 3,000 journées de terre arable, appartiennent exclusivement aux habitants de Podgorica et de la Zéta. Le tiers qui est sur la rive gauche du ruisseau, et du côté oriental, était désigné sous le nom de Palat-Groudi, appartient de même pour les trois quarts aux gens de Podgorica et de la Zéta, et pour un quart seulement aux Groudi des montagnes.

2. Prairies, plaines, collines, et villages; deux tiers de ces propriétés appartiennent aux habitants suivants de Podgorica:—

	Près "Kotcha."*	Journées.	Maisons.
Mourat-Aga-Adje; Monis Possed	68½	26	..
Le fils d'Adji-Alia-Marie	15	40	1
Le fils d'Adje-Abbor	10	..	..
Adje Macho	15	..	..
Medo Lachwich	10	..	..
Ibrahim Adje Hussein Nov	25	..	..
Rouhim Churkik, avec ses frères	55	..	..
Derviche Effovich	5	..	..
Ahmed Emerned Loumanovich	8	..	..
Adjou Turco	18	..	..
Mamoud Georgévitch	8	..	..
Abla Adje Seljaro	2	20	..
Houssein Mehemedou	2	..	..
Jakoub Djetchevitch	9	..	..
Aiko Trion Tchetou, avec ses frères Alia Baro et Betcho	..	150	..
Ahmed Marie	..	40	..
Mamoud Beg Andovitch	..	15	1
Amed Loutnitch	..	20	1
Sélim Bibizieth	..	15	..
Mustapha Aga Djetchovitch	..	40	..
Ousta Nezir	..	30	..
Amed Adrovitch	..	25	1
Hussein Chelebitchi	..	10	1
Assan Krasnich	..	10	..
Houssein Beg Abdovitch	..	25	1
Sélic Pupic	..	15	..

* La mesure pour les prés, appelé dans ces pays "kotcha," équivaut à deux journées de terre arable.

Dans le village de Vrany il y a trois maisons Catholiques venues directement des Groudi, treize maisons Musulmanes, et vingt maisons Serbes Orthodoxes.* Ces treize maisons Musulmanes se sont formées par les habitants de Chipchanik qui ont quitté, les uns il y a soixante ans, les autres dix à quinze ans, ce village, et se sont établis à Vrany.

Les Musulmans de Vrany sont de la même parenté que ceux de Chipchanik et se nomment Pépitchi. Les Musulmans de Chipchanik, les Pépitchi, sont originaires de Podgorica, et en parenté avec les familles Adrovitch, Aldovitch, Povic, qui sont venus de Groudi à Podgorica il y a à peu près deux siècles. Les collines de Vrany appartiennent également aux habitants de la plaine, c'est-à-dire au gens de Vrany, de Matagust, et nullement aux habitants des montagnes.

3. Village de Matagus et de Gotchitchi. Dans le premier il y a sept maisons toutes Serbes Orthodoxes, et dans le deuxième, dix maisons également toutes Serbes Orthodoxes. Dans ces deux villages, et outre leurs habitants, il n'y a que des gens de Podgorica et de Goloubovitch qui y ont des propriétés.

* Dans le village de Vrany il y a une église Orthodoxe qui est une des plus anciennes de la plaine de la Zéta.

Les habitants de Podgorica dont les noms suivent :—

	Kotchas.	Journées.	Maisons.
Ali Beg Lekitch	..	200	..
Mourat Adje Ablov	..	200	..
Alia Adje Ablov	..	100	..
Noumanovitch	..	50	..
Adji Vodopic	..	50	..
Adou Souhov	..	16	..
Ibro Lekitch	..	30	..
Mahmoud Husséin Nov	..	40	..
Monio Moud Mussiz (Hatai Adjablovich) ..	..	120	..
Alia Kadria	..	6	..
Tahir Charkoto	..	15	..
Jakoub Djetchevitch	..	15	..
Medo Ai Barov	..	15	..
Yousso Grajiovic	12	10	..
Mahmoud Abdavitch	6	..	..
Orantchevitch	4	..	..
Soulio Tegunovitch	7	..	..
Kaphan Redjovitch	5	..	..
Zemion Efendi Averota	4	..	..
Velca Chabanovitch, et son frère	2	..	..
Hassan Djenevitch	24	..	..
Adje Ibro Lekitch	..	5	..
Omer Aga Krnik	..	12	..
Adje Mo	..	6	..
La fille d'Adje Aga Redgovitch	..	15	..
A Gatchitchi	..	30	..
Les fils d'Ibro Lekitch	..	120	..
Mahmoud Aga Adje Hussein Mov	..	..	..
Monio Adje Bayrog, Etai Adje Ablnov ..	6	..	..
Alia Kadrin	15	..	..
Tahir Charkik	..	10	..
Yakoub Djecevitch	..	14	..
Medo Agda Ov	..	..	..

4. Village de Vladnir. Dans ce village il y a vingt-cinq maisons Musulmans. Les habitants de ce village possèdent le tiers des propriétés et les habitants de Podgorica de deux tiers. Les habitants suivants de Podgorica sont propriétaires :—

	Kotchas.	Journées.	Maisons.
Jesis Moustapha Agitov	..	100	3
Assan Youssouf Aga	..	50	..
Mourat Aga	..	84	3
Mahmoud Georgevitch	..	12	..

Au-dessus de ce village deux familles de Dinosh possèdent des propriétés qu'elles ont achetées depuis cinq ou six ans.

Les habitants de Vradni sont originaires de Rakouyan, village de Kutei. Leurs ancêtres sont venus de Rakouyan il y a un siècle et demi, et s'étaient d'abord établis à Podgorica d'où ils ont émigré les uns il y à cinquante ans, les autres vingt, et même plus récemment, et se sont fixé à Vladni.

5. Village de Kudro-Bouda. Dans ce village il y a dix-huit maisons Musulmanes. Les habitants de Podgorica dont les noms suivent sont propriétaires :—Mourad Aga, Adje Moulov, Medo Adje Routemonic, Tahic Thakic, Harassen Taskic, Ahhi Adje Sali.

Toutes les familles de ce village sont originaires de Tusi.

6. Village de Chipchanik. Dans ce village il y a sept maisons Musulmanes nommées Lepepatch, venues de Podogorica, et de la parenté des Adrovitch et des Vodopic (voir Vrany).

Tout le Chipchanik (la colline comprise) appartenait d'abord aux trois frères Krnitch, de Podgorica ; deux d'entre eux vendirent leurs biens aux Turcs Pipitchi, tandis que le troisième frère, appelé Selim Krnitch, conserve actuellement encore ses propriétés.

7. Village de Tusi. Dans ce village il y a cinquante maisons Musulmanes. Les habitants de Podgorica dont les noms suivent ont des propriétés (terres arables, vignobles, prairies, maisons) :—

Abla Adje Selior possède une maison, beaucoup de terres arables et des prairies. Assan Latchevitch possède des terrains et des vignobles, ainsi que Mido Roustemovic ; Ibro Oustemovic et Soulio Ostovic, Adjou Touca, a une maison et des terres ; Mahmed Agar, Selio Adje Aliagic, Adji Mourat, Assan Youssouf Tol possèdent des terrains, des maisons, et des moulins.

Tusi est un village très-ancien. Les habitants n'ont de parenté nulle part excepté avec les familles suivantes de Podgorica : Dayovitch, Adje Surovitch, Sakovitch, Eskaratchi (tous amis).

8. Village de Milesh. Dans ce village il y a vingt maisons Musulmanes toutes venues de Dinosh, il y a environ quinze ou vingt ans. En formant le village, les émigrés de Dinosh achetèrent aux habitants de Podgorica, et particulièrement à la famille des Krnita, qu'ils possédaient en cet endroit. Les Podgoriciens suivants possèdent des propriétés :—

Selio Moustapha Agic, Krenic Adje Murat, Samali Kronc, tous trois ayant des terrains et des vignobles ; ainsi que Selim Krnitch et Molio Moussic.

9. Village de Dinosh. Dans ce village il y a soixante maisons Musulmanes et une Catholique. Les Podgoriciens suivants ont des terres et des vignobles :—

Selio Oketich, Amer Oketich, Yakoub Jossevitch, Mahmoud Adja Signaf, Ali Beg, Lekitch.

Les habitants de Dinosh sont originaires de Matagouche. Parmi les anciens émigrés de Matagouche les uns s'établirent à Podgorica, les autres à Dinosh, et on trouve ainsi les mêmes familles à Podgorica et à Dinosh, comme les familles, par exemple, Krnitch, Jesevitch, Latsevitch, Kalonje Cevitch, &c. Les trois familles de Dinosh appelés Omer Bojovitch sont originaires de Ciénitza, village de Konci, en parenté avec le Voivode actuel de Ciénitza, Vaso Borneanov.

10. Tout le terrain qui s'étend depuis Kodrabouchan et Tusi, jusqu'au pied du Hum, était il y a quatre-vingt-dix ans la propriété exclusive des familles suivantes de Podgorica : Abdovitch, Maridj, Adje Achmet, Moukovitch, Zandanitch, Cheliovitch, Selehitchitch, Aligokitch, Moustapha Pacha, Boucha Klia, et Hassan Hoti, arrachèrent à cette époque ces terrains à leurs légitimes possesseurs, sans rien payer en échange.

Une députation composée des principaux membres des familles précédentes alla à Scutari auprès de Mahmoud Pacha, le Grand Vizir, qui commandait en personne l'armée Impériale, et qui venait d'étouffer l'insurrection en Albanie, pour lui demander la restitution des terres qu'on leur avait injustement enlevées. Le Grand Vizir, au moment de retourner à Constantinople, où il amenait avec lui prisonnier Moustapha Pacha, Boucha Klia, leur donna une lettre pour le Moudir de Podgorica afin qu'il leur restituait leurs terres. Mais à cette époque le Moudir était à Podgorica, le seul représentant du pouvoir Impérial, et comme il n'avait sous sa main ni troupes ni milice organisée, son autorité fut sans effet, et l'ordre du Grand Vizir ne put être exécuté. Quelque temps après le départ de Scutari du Grand Vizir, Hoti, avec les gens de sa tribu, réunit à sa part celle de son compagnon qu'on amenait captif à Constantinople, et les Hoti ont ainsi conservés ces terrains en leurs mains jusqu'aujourd'hui.

11. Impôts de la dîme (en Turc Achar). Le village de Vrany a donné jusqu'en 1878 inclusivement l'impôt de la dîme aux deux familles, Mesi Koukitch et Daz Darevitch, de Spuz.

(2.) Le village de Vladny a toujours donné la dîme aux deux familles, Osman Agic et Alez Pai, de Podgorica.

Au-dessus de Vladny se trouvent les terrains nommés Samaris. Les dîmes de Samaris ont été de tous temps prélevés par la famille Omar Scaica, de Zubliac.

(3.) Les dîmes de Chipchanik de Kodraboudan, de Tusi, et de Milesh ont été prélevés en partie par la famille Raïkitch de Podgorica, en partie par une famille Turque de Scutari, et en partie aussi par l'autorité de Podgorica. La partie des dîmes que prélevait l'autorité de Podgorica était employé pour les dépenses des troupes qui y étaient en garnison.

(4.) Les dîmes du Gori Tibrod ont toujours été prélevées par l'autorité Impériale, versées à Podgorica et affectées aux dépenses des troupes en garnisons.

(5.) Les Hoti donnaient aussi l'impôt de la dîme sur le terrain entre Kodraboudan, Tusi et Hum, avec deux familles Mesi Koukitch et Daz Darevitch, de Spuz, et à la famille Raïkitch, de Podgorica.

12. Organisation Militaire. En temps de guerre les habitants des villages précédents se réunissaient sous le drapeau de Tusi. Ce drapeau ainsi constitué allait toujours en guerre avec les deux drapeaux que formaient la ville de Podgorica.

De tout ce qui précede il résulte clairement que toute la plaine de la Zéta jusqu'au pied de le ceinture des montagnes qui s'étend depuis le Hum jusqu'au Zem, était séparée complétement des tribus Montagnardes Hoti et Grouda, et avait Podgorica pour centre

d'administration. La ceinture des montagnes précédemment nommée a toujours été la limite entre la plaine de la Zéta et les tribus précédentes, et cette limite doit être maintenue aujourd'hui si l'on veut appliquer strictement sur le terrain le texte du Traité de Berlin.

Annexe 2 au Protocole No. 24.

Exposé de M. le Commissaire de Russie.

En abordant la question de la frontière dans la plaine, nous trouvons le texte du Traité de Berlin qui dit, "D'où elle se dirige sur Plavnica;" cependant, en jetant un regard sur la carte annexée au Traité, on était d'abord vivement surpris de voir que le tracé fait et adopté par le Congrès, lui-même, ne coïncide pas avec le paroles du Traité et, au lieu de diriger la frontière sur Plavnica, elle est dirigée vers un point se trouvant à 4 kilom. au sud-est de cet endroit. Pour expliquer ce malentendu, je reviens sur l'exposé dans la vingt-deuxième séance par notre collègue de France, et je rappelle à la Commission ce tracé adopté par la Sous-Commission Militaire à Berlin.

Connaissant personnellement plusieurs de ces membres de cette Sous-Commission, sachant que ces messieurs agissaient en parfaite connaissance de cause, parce que le terrain en question leur était connu, je suis persuadé qu'il s'agissait d'éloigner la frontière autant que possible de Podgorica, vu la position militaire très-peu favorable à la défense de cette ville.

En effet, pendant notre séjour à Podgorica on a pu s'apercevoir que les positions stratégiques et tactiques, tout en étant formidables par rapport à un ennemi venant sur Monténégro, ne sont d'aucune valeur au côté sud, c'est-à-dire vis-à-vis de la Turquie.

Ici la ville est tout-à-fait découverte et de tout point qui pourrait tant soit peu la couvrir. Il en est de même pour la plaine de la Zéta qui sur toute son étendue entre le lac et la ville est complétement ouverte et accessible. Vis-à-vis d'une position si faible et à proximité de la ville nous trouvons du côté de la Turquie une position dominante d'une force formidable dont le canon peut atteindre la ville, et domine toute la plaine des deux côtés du Zem. La position Turque entre le golfe Jemeque à Strati et Dinosh, est une position éminemment agressive et représente un véritable type des positions de ce genre.

Laisser vivre une population paisible constamment sous le canon du pays voisin est incontestablement un inconvénient très-grave. Le Traité de Berlin accorde toujours et à tous les pays dont il fait mention, le juste droit de se défendre, tout en sauvegardant des positions éminemment agressives, comme celle que nous avons devant nous.

La Commission, il me semble, devrait donc s'animer de cet esprit, et dans l'intérêt des deux pays limitrophes, tâcher de trouver le moyen de remédier cet état de choses. Il y a trois moyens de sauvegarder la sécurité de Podgorica et des plaines adjacentes :—

1. Le plus efficace serait de tracer la frontière au milieu du Golfe Laseneque Castrati, et Hoti jusqu'à Kuse ; de passer entre les Monts Vele Ciko et Buko-Raitza, et en descendant par le Vallée de Rapsa, atteindre le Zem à un endroit nommé Grabon, se trouvant vis-à-vis des villages de Paprad et Benkaï. Ce moyen, tout en prenant à la Turquie la position agressive sus-nommée, lui permettrait d'avoir une position défensive formidable par sa force sur la rive est du golfe mentionné, mais ce moyen ne pourrait s'appliquer qu'au détriment des tribus Hoti et Grudi, et malheureusement il est hors de la compétence de notre Commission.

J'ajouterai qu'il serait le seul à même d'établir un équilibre militaire entre les deux pays sur toute l'étendue de la frontière d'Albanie.

2. Un second moyen moins efficace serait de reculer la frontière Turque à la distance de 10 kilom. de Podgorica, moyen dont on a parlé dans les séances du Congrès, et qui mettrait cette ville, ainsi qu'une partie de la plaine, hors de portée de canon. Cette frontière passerait par le petit pont de la Ruela, ruisseau de Tusi, au sud-est du village de Tusi, et en passant par la cime du Mont Mala Hoti, atteindrait le Zem vis-à-vis du village Pikali. Ce moyen pourra être proposé et résolu par la Commission, si les parties intéressées étaient d'accord.

A la fin, le moyen le moins efficace, et en même temps celui que ne s'écarterait pas du tracé fait par le Congrès sur la carte, est celui qui détacherait en faveur du Monténégro, les trois collines de Vrany, de Chipchanik, et la colline est de Milesh, nommée Rogami.

Ces trois collines permettraient à la Principauté de sauvegarder tant soit peu la ville et la plaine de Podgorica.

La petite carte ci-jointe montre que les membres de la Commission Militaire à Berlin avaient donné au tracé une direction qui détachait les trois collines sus-nommées en faveur du Monténégro. Quoi que ces collines ne soient pas indiquées sur la carte, ces messieurs, connaissant le pays, pourraient bien le faire. En effet, prenant Podgorica comme point fixe et rectifiant toutes les distances, et la position relative des différents points d'après le lever régulier de ce pays, on trouve que le tracé du Congrès non-seulement coïncide parfaitement avec la ligne que je propose, mais même la dépasse en plusieurs endroits. Il serait d'autant plus possible de tracer cette ligne que l'enquête faite par la Commission au sujet des limites entre les populations Slaves et les tribus des Hoti et Grudi a démontré que l'élément Slave occupe presque toute entière la plaine, et que seulement les villages avoisinant la montagne contiennent une population mixte où les Grudi et les Hoti ont ultérieurement acquis des possessions.

C'est ce dernier tracé que je propose, dans l'espoir que mes collègues, animés comme moi du désir de donner un appui quelconque à la ville et à la plaine de Podgorica, y adhéreront et accepteront le tracé suivant :

Ayant passé par le détroit entre les Etats Gorica-Topal (Tap Halwa ou Planick) et Vogel, la frontière passera le lac en se dirigeant vers le nord-nord-ouest pour atteindre l'embouchure du Stanitza Patak, elle remonterait jusqu'au taillis nommée Gobédibrod ; ayant passé ce taillis, elle se dirigerait vers le nord-est et atteindrait le ruisseau Ruela Patak à 2 kilom. à l'aval de Kodrobado. Elle remonterait ce Patak en passant entre la colline Hum et le village de Tusi d'un côté, et les collines de Vrany et Chipchanik de l'autre, pour atteindre un point situé à 1 kilom. en amont du petit pont au pied du Chipchanik. Quittant la Ruela, la frontière devrait se diriger vers le sommet de la petite colline qui se trouve au sud-est de la colline Rogami, puis, laissant le village de Milesh à l'Albanie, elle passerait entre les collines de Milesh et de Rogami, pour atteindre le Zem, qu'elle remonterait jusqu'au contrefort ouest de Sauka-Grudi. Puis en suivant la crête de ce contrefort, elle atteindrait la cime de la dite montagne.

Si besoin était, j'accepterai une variante à ce tracé qui irait du ruisseau la Ruela en ligne droite vers le lac pour aboutir à l'endroit où about le tracé du Congrès de Berlin.

(Signé) KAULBARS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 269.

Protocole No. 25.—*Séance du 7 Septembre*, 1879.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Capitaine Testa.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Consul-Général Lippich,
M. le Capitaine Sauerwald.

Pour la France—
M. le Consul-Général Comte Colonna Ceccaldi,
M. le Baron d'Estournelles de Constant.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Capitaine Sale,
M. le Lieutenant Caillard.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Ottolenghi.

Pour le Monténégro—
M. Simo Popovic,
M. Nico Matanovich.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Baron Nicolas Kaulbars I.

Pour la Turquie—
M. le Général de Brigade Véli Riza Pacha,
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Bedri Bey.

LA séance est ouverte à 9 heures.

Le Protocole de la séance précédente est lu et approuvé.

Son *Excellence Riza Pacha* présente la Déclaration suivante en réponse au Mémoire lu par la Délégation Monténégrine dans la séance précédente :—

" D'après M. Popovic, le Congrès de Berlin aurait eu en vue la séparation complète des éléments Albanais et Serbes, et il s'en prévaut pour demander l'annexion au Monténégro de presque toute la plaine de Podgorica, recherchant les nouveaux sujets Princiers même dans les villages mixtes où les habitants ont une teinte d'origine Slave, seraient-ils établis sur un point en qualité de simples colons! Les Délégués Ottomans ne sauraient suivre dans cette voie leurs collègues du Monténégro. Riza Pacha rappelle à la Commission que lors de la discussion de la ligne de Gorica-Topal, malgré son opposition, les deux tracés contradictoires de M. le Colonel Kaulbars et de M. le Capitaine Sale ont compris dans la zone afférente au Monténégro des Bairaks, dont les habitants n'avaient ni affinité de langue, ni de race, ni de religion avec cette Principauté. Le Premier Commissaire Ottoman ne s'explique donc pas les raisons qui induiraient une partie de la Commission à annexer au Monténégro beaucoup de villages de la plaine parce que quelques-uns des habitants se trouveraient être d'origine Slave.

" Le Traité de Berlin, qui est formel, lorsqu'il dit que les tribus des Hoti, Klémenti, et Grudi resteront à l'Albanie avec leurs limites actuelles, n'exprime pas la pensée de l'annexion de la plus grande partie de la plaine au Monténégro. Bien au contraire, il indique une ligne de Podgorica au lac, aboutissant à la Plavnica, dont l'identité a été constatée sur le terrain, ligne qui conserve à la Turquie une grande partie de la plaine de façon à sauvegarder les droits des populations Ottomanes, comme ceux de l'Empire."

La Délégation de la Sublime Porte n'admet pas des prétentions soulevées en dehors de l'esprit et de la lettre du Traité de Berlin, et le gain de cause qu'on donnerait à la partie adverse au sein de la Commission, sans tenir compte des limites des Grudi.

Et cependant, l'enquête invoquée par M. Popovic n'est guère favorable au Monténégro. En effet, tous les témoignages s'accordent à établir que les collines près de Vrania appartiennent aux Grudi et Hoti, ainsi que la forêt de Puh-Gruda et bien d'autres terrains qui s'étendent dans la plaine. Pourquoi donc circonscrire les Grudi comme les Hoti, presque à leurs montagnes? Les inquiétudes pour l'avenir manifestées par les possesseurs actuels de Podgorica, sont-elles suffisantes pour justifier un verdict de la Commission qui se produit tout-à-fait au désavantage de la Turquie? La dernière campagne a prouvé que cette ville est défendable par ses propres œuvres, et quoiqu'on prétende, la situation n'est pas modifié. Mais on dira que le Monténégro n'a pas assez de troupes pour garnir les hauteurs de Podgorica; raison de plus pour ne pas éparpiller ses forces en lui donnant des positions comme celle de Vrania, qui sont hors de sa sphère d'action.

Le Monténégro n'a d'ailleurs qu'à vivre en bons rapports avec la Turquie, et rien ne troublera sa sécurité à Podgorica comme ailleurs. Si, contrairement à toute prévision et dans le but de rassurer le Monténégro, on enlevait à la Turquie les collines de Vrania, on préjudicierait la tribu de Grudi, et on enlèverait au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Sultan la ligne stratégique qu'il possède actuellement et qui assure ses communications entre le Lac Touzi, Dinosh, la tribu de Grudi, celle des Klémenti, et les Caïraks de la Kucka Kraina.

Riza Pacha fait en outre remarquer qu'un point comme celui de Vrania, situé à 12 kilom. environ de Podgorica, ne saurait effrayer cette cité, tandis qu'il est pour ainsi dire un point d'observation et de protection pour les communications d'une partie du territoire Ottoman avec le lac.

M. Popovic, parlant de la diversité des impôts appliqués en pays de plaine, ou dans la montagne, en tire l'argument que la plaine de Podgorica n'appartient même pas en partie aux Grudi.

Danish Effendi a déjà donné quelques éclaircissements à ce sujet; *le Premier Commissaire Ottoman* sait cependant ajouter qu'administrativement, non-seulement toute la plaine, mais même la montagne de Grudi, avait des rapports avec le Caïmacat de Podgorica, vu sa proximité avec la ville de ce nom. Pour ce qui est des liens d'armes de la plaine avec Grudi, la population qui fraternisait avec cette tribu s'est toujours rangée sous ses drapeaux.

Effectivement, et ainsi que l'assure M. Popovic, il n'est venu à l'idée de personne de comprendre Podgorica dans la circonscription de Grudi; d'ailleurs, même si cela existait effectivement, l'engagement national pris à Berlin par les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans eût été suffisant pour écarter, de la part des autorités Ottomanes, toute revendication. Tout le monde sait que Podgorica était une ville fortifiée, réglée presque militairement, tandis que les Grudi, Hoti, Klémenti et autres, jouissent de certaines immunités qui ne s'étendent pas à leurs propriétés de la plaine, vu que la fertilité du sol en cet endroit ne justifierait pas un traitement exceptionnel. Le payement de la dime en nature par les propriétaires montagnards en pays de plaine, ne saurait être invoqué pour détruire les droits des Grudi et reculer les limites de leur tribu.

Malgré les assertions de la Délégation Monténégrine, on ne saurait considérer comme Slaves la majorité des habitants de Podgorica; l'histoire est là pour prouver le contraire. Mahomet le Conquérant, qui a fondé cette ville, l'a peuplée avec des Cipays et des Albanais provenant des montagnes, qui insensiblement, et par des alliances avec des femmes Slaves, et des rapports de commerce avec la Monténégro, sont arrivés à parler indifféremment le Slave comme l'Albanais. Une décision Européenne a mis des centaines de familles dans l'alternative d'émigrer ou d'accepter la sujétion Monténégrine; il ne s'ensuit pas que la Commission ait le mandat de rechercher sur un parcours indéfini les propriétés appartenant ou ayant appartenu à des habitants de Podgorica, émigrés et vivant de secours pour la plupart, pour les comprendre dans le nouveau territoire Princier. En procédant ainsi, on risquerait de rencontrer une ligne de continuité qui amènerait le Monténégro jusqu'au cœur de Scutari.

La pensée du Congrès n'a pas même eu vue la cession d'une grande partie de la plaine de Podgorica au Monténégro, car elle se serait exprimée à ce sujet avec la précision qui caractérise ailleurs ses décisions.

Nous avons tous le devoir de contribuer à l'exécution du Traité de Berlin, mais la Commission, par ses décisions, doit-elle contraindre à la mendicité les émigrés de Podgorica, qui sollicitent, sans exception, que leurs terres continuent à faire partie du territoire Ottoman? La Délégation Ottomane ne le pense.

Les pièces en langue Turque dont la Délégation Monténégrine veut s'appuyer pour prouver que l'administration du Podgorica percevait des impôts sur toute la plaine, n'ont pas la valeur qu'on attribue, et les conséquences que M. Popovic en tire n'ont pas la logique qu'il manifeste. Il est notoire que le fisc Ottoman a un système uniforme de perception pour le recouvrement des contributions de tout genre, et il ne prend conseil que de ses convenances pour faire des perceptions, en déléguant ses pouvoirs, indifféremment à tel ou tel Caïmacam, ou au chef-lieu même de la province; ainsi, souvent la plaine a-t-elle versé ses impôts directement à la Caisse de Scutari, comme le plus souvent à Podgorica. Il est un fait que les Grudi eux-mêmes reconnaissaient fiscalement, d'ordre supérieur, le Caïmacat de Podgorica, comme ils relèvent aujourd'hui sous ce rapport

du Gouvernement de Torch; ce fait s'est produit très-souvent, quoiqu'en p ré ten M. Popovic.

Moustapha-Pacha et Hoti se sont emparé, dit M. Popovic, d'une partie de la plaine en cause; cela est probable, mais il s'agit d'un temps qui remonte jusqu'à un siècle. La Délégation Ottomane est persuadée qu'à Berlin on n'a pas eu en vue une époque qui a subi une triple prescription, mais les frontières actuelles des tribus, qui doivent être prises en sérieuse considération.

Les Klémenti et les Skréli sont chez eux à Alessio, malgré ce qu'en pensent MM. les Commissaires Monténégrins, avec la différence que leurs possessions sont en pays de plaine, entrent dans le régime commun fiscal par leur nature même.

La Turquie, en abandonnant les collines de Lipsanik, Miljes, Dinosh, et autres localités, ainsi que le veulent MM. les Commissaires Monténégrins et M. le Commissaire de Russie, semble-t-il, renoncerait à la souveraineté absolue de la plaine dite "de Podgoritza," et devrait s'habituer graduellement à voir les tribus de l'Albanie échapper à son contrôle, car elles se trouveraient sans défense, exposées aux agissements du dehors, s'il prenait fantaisie à certains de ses Chefs influents à faire défection a un moment donné, et tourner les armes des montagnards contre la Turquie.

Pour la sécurité des tribus, pour leur existence nationale, pour l'intégrité de l'Albanie, que les Puissances ont eu à cœur de conserver, la route militaire du Hum à Dinosh doit être à la Turquie avec sa continuité, avec la zone des limites actuelles des Grudi dans la plaine; se prononcer autrement ne serait certainement ni juste ni prudent."

Danish Effendi donne ensuite lecture d'une réponse de la Délégation Ottomane aux conclusions de M. le Commissaire de France exposés dans la séance précédente, et relatives à un compromis pour les Cafraks de la Kucka-Kraina:

"Dans l'exposé de M. le Commissaire de France, la Délégation Ottomane perçoit un but transactionnel qu'elle ne saurait admettre, attendu que'il se produit tout à l'avantage du Monténégro, tout au préjudice de la Turquie. Un compromis a pour caractère essentiel de rapprocher les parties intéressées par des concessions mutuelles. Dans le cas présent, le bénéfice est uniquement pour le Monténégro; le sacrifice est exclusivement pour la Turquie. La mission Ottomane regrette de ne pas trouver les témoignages invoqués par M. le Comte Colonna Ceccaldi en rapport avec la conviction qu'elle s'est formée par les déclarations des Chefs des tribus, interrogés par la Commission. Les limites des Grudi ont été définies, il ne s'agit pas de les restreindre, mais de les conserver intactes.

"Lorsque M. Le Commissaire de France parle de l'intégrité des tribus, il ne saurait," dit-il, "la prendre dans un sens abusif. Son esprit de conciliation l'entraine cependant jusqu'à faire peser la balance en faveur du Monténégro. Il en est de même pour la situation stratégique du pays, qu'il déplacerait d'une façon déplorable pour la Turquie, si les Puissances Européennes prenaient en considération la transaction que M. Colonna Ceccaldi propose, et contre laquelle la Délégation Ottomane proteste formellement."

Riza Pacha ne veut pas trop occuper l'attention de la Commission, aussi s'abstient-il de répéter les arguments qu'il a émis dans sa réponse à la Délégation Monténégrine, et qui, à son avis, détruisent les assertions de M. le Commissaire de France, aussi bien que la dissertation de M. le Colonel Kaulbars, laquelle prouve une fois de plus combien il tient à cœur d'avantager le Monténégro.

La Convention de Vir-Bazar ayant été invoquée à différentes reprises dans le cour des débats de la Commission, Danish Effendi remet cette pièce au Bureau, pour être annexée au présent Protocole. (Annexe 1 au Protocole No. 26.)

Le Commissaire de Russie fait remarquer qu'aucun militaire ne saurait admettre que la position actuelle de Podgorica puisse être en quoi que ce soit, comparée à celle qu'elle avait sous les Turcs, et un seul coup-d'œil sur le terrain prouve que cette position entre les mains des Ottomans était autrefois formidable, tandis qu'aujourd'hui, telle qu'elle reste au Monténégro, elle est absolument indéfendable.

Le Commissaire d'Angleterre observe que les Plénipotentiaires du Congrès de Berlin n'ignoraient pas que Podgorica restait sans défenses.

Le Commissaire de France est d'avis que le Congrès ne connaissait pas l'existence des collines.

Le Commissaire Britannique répond que le Traité fait cependant mention de Dinosh, qui est plus près de Podgorica.

Riza Pacha observe que dans la discussion d'hier, les Délégués Monténégrins ont recherché un point d'attache pour les travaux de la plaine en dehors de Plavnitza. Cependant, dans la Convention de Vir-Bazar, M. Popovic, qui représentait alors aussi Son

Altesse le Prince Nicolas, a admis parfaitement cette localité comme point d'attache, et il ne saurait aujourd'hui se prévaloir de l'ignorance du terrain, car il agissait en pleine connaissance de cause. Plavnitza est d'ailleurs un point topographique très-défini, puisque tout près se trouve un petit cours d'eau.

Le Colonel Kaulbars demande à son collègue d'Italie, quelle aurait été, dans sa pensée, le tracé qu'il eût proposé, si, comme il le désirait, le point d'attache au lac avait été pris à 3½ kilom. à l'est du Plavnitza de la Carte Autrichienne.

Le Commissaire d'Italie répond que d'après lui, vu que les populations de la plaine sont mélangées, vu que le territoire de la commune de Vrany n'est pas aux Albanais, et que ses populations sont presque toutes Slaves; vu que, au contraire, dans le doute, on peut croire que les territoires des collines de Chipchanik et Rogami sont Albanais, les habitants étant en majorité de Grudi; vu, enfin, que le tracé de la Carte Autrichienne doit servir comme complément du Traité, toutes les fois qu'il y a des doutes, il aurait préféré la ligne donnée par la carte même. En conséquence, en partant du point à 3½ kilom. à l'est du Plavnitza de la carte, le tracé aurait gagné en ligne droite le pont sur le Zem, en laissant la grande colline de Vrany au Monténégro et les autres à la Turquie.

Avec ce tracé, et pour donner à Podgorica un certain rayon de sûreté, le Commissaire d'Italie aurait encore proposé que toutes fortifications des collines de Chipchanik fût rasées, et que les chemins militaires, construits dans les collines mêmes pour gagner aux fortifications, fussent détruits.

Mais, puisqu'il y a eu une majorité pour adopter le point d'attache de Plavnitza, et partager la grande colline de Vrany, il y a adhéré.

L'ordre du jour appelle la discussion sur la ligne-frontière, à partir de Vrany.

Le Commissaire de Grande Bretagne propose que la Commission:—

1. Constate à qui appartient la colline de Chipchanik.
2. S'en rapporter, en cas de doute, à la Carte Autrichienne.

Le Commissaire de France rappelle que la presque totalité des villages semble appartenir à des gens qui sont venus des montagnes, et ont acheté ces terains; en considération de ce fait il pourrait légèrement changer sa ligne, de façon à laisser la presque totalité des villages à la Turquie, conformément au tracé modifié qu'il présente.

Le Commissaire d'Angleterre pense que ces collines appartiennent aux gens des montagnes, et malgré le danger qui résulte sans doute de cette décision pour Podgorica, il ne voit pas que l'on puisse exécuter le Traité sans laisser ces collines à la Turquie. Cette décision n'est pas sans graves inconvénients, mais le Capitaine Sale la considère comme forcée, la Commission n'ayant pas le pouvoir de modifier le Traité.

La Délégation Ottomane conteste jusqu'à l'existence d'une seule famille Slave à Chipchanik.

Le Commissaire de France répond que, sans discuter l'exactitude de cette assertion, il laisse le village à la Turquie, précisément en raison de ces considérations.

Le Commissaire Monténégrin se réfère à ce qu'il a dit à ce sujet dans son Mémoire annexé au dernier Protocole.

Après les explications qui viennent d'être échangées, M. le Commissaire Britannique demande que la Commission résolve cette question: à qui appartient Chipchanik?

Le Président recueille les opinions.

Le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie reconnaît que le village et les collines sont la propriété des montagnards Albanais.

Le Commissaire d'Angleterre exprime la même opinion.

La Délégation Ottomane déclare que le village et les collines sont la propriété de Grudi.

Le Commissaire d'Italie fait la même déclaration que ses collègues d'Autriche et d'Angleterre, mais il distingue entre la propriété de certains terrains de la tribu, à laquelle les propriétaires de ces terrains appartiennent. En effet, des gens des tribus peuvent se porter ailleurs, et même très-loin pour acheter des propriétés hors de leur territoire. En conséquence, le Colonel Ottolenghi, se référant à sa déclaration ci-dessus, entend, en parlant des tribus de Hoti, Grondi, Klémenti, ne parler que des territoires de la montagne dans lequel ils se trouvent.

Le Commissaire du Monténégro, en se référant à son Mémoire d'hier, attribue la propriété de la colline et du village à des habitants de Podgorica ou à des gens venus de Podgorica.

Le Commissaire de Russie se range à l'avis restrictif du Commissaire d'Italie.

Le Commissaire de France fait la même Déclaration, en se référant aux observations qu'il a développées dans la dernière séance; la question ne lui paraît pas absolument tranchée, et il faut distinguer entre les propriétés acquises et le territoire primitif des

tribus. Le Comte Colonna Ceccaldi répète que dans son tracé modifié il tient compte, autant que possible, de ce fait que la propriété presque intégrale du village de Chipchanik appartient à des montagnards, en laissant entièrement ce village à l'Albanie, tandis que, de l'autre côté, son tracé n'attribue en fait que quelques rochers inhabités, au Monténégro.

Le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie complète son opinion en reconnaissant que, selon les témoignages recueillis par la Commission, la colline et le village sont territoires des Grudi.

Le Commissaire de l'Angleterre exprime le désir que la Commission se prononce sur cette question:

"Sur la Carte Autrichienne, le tracé est-il fait à l'ouest du site vrai des collines susmentionnées?"

Le Président ayant soumis cette question à la Commission,

Le Commissaire d'Allemagne ne saurait se prononcer.

Les Commissaires d'Autriche-Hongrie, de Grande Bretagne, d'Italie, et *de Turquie* répondent "oui."

Le Commissaire du Monténégro répond "non."

Le Commissaire de Russie répond que, d'après les études par lui faites, le tracé laisserait les collines aux montagnes, mais ces études, sur une carte à l'échelle de $\frac{1}{300000}$, ne permettent pas de juger exactement la ligne qu'on entendait tracer à Berlin; il se prononce pour la négative.

Le Commissaire de France déclare que la dite carte, ne contenant aucune de ces collines, il lui est impossible de donner une réponse à la question du Capitaine Sale, et de se prononcer en présence des affirmations contradictoires de MM. le Colonel Kaulbars et le Capitaine Sale, tous deux membres de la Sous-Commission Topographique.

Le Bureau constate, en conséquence, sur la question du Commissaire d'Angleterre, 4 votes affirmatifs, 2 votes négatifs, et 2 réserves.

Le Commissaire de France demande que la Commission vote sur le tracé modifié qu'il a eu l'honneur de lui proposer.

Le Président recueille les voix.

Les Commissaires d'Autriche-Hongrie et de Turquie votent contre.

Le Commissaire du Monténégro vote contre, en renouvelant l'assurance que Chipchanik appartient à Podgorica.

Le Commissaire d'Italie vote contre, parce qu'il ne croit pas que la Commission ait le pouvoir de détacher de l'Albanie cette colline, qui appartient presque exclusivement aux Grudi, et en outre, parce qu'il a déclaré (Protocole No. 2) que, dans les cas douteux, il s'en tiendrait au tracé de la Carte Autrichienne. Il se réserve d'ailleurs de faire une proposition spéciale à ce sujet.

Le Commissaire de Russie réserve son vote.

Le Commissaire de France vote pour.

Le Commissaire d'Allemagne s'abstient.

En conséquence, le tracé du Commissaire de France est rejeté par 5 voix contre 1, et 2 réserves.

Les Commissaires de Grande Bretagne et *d'Italie* sont d'accord pour proposer une ligne qui, partant du sommet nord de la colline de Vrany, gagne en ligne droite le pont en pierre du Zem Rzanicke Most. MM. le Capitaine Sale et le Colonel Ottolenghi ajoutent que la Commission émettrait alors le vœu que toutes les fortifications pouvant exister actuellement sur les collines de Vrany, Chipchanik, et Milesh seront rasées, qu'il n'en pourra être édifiées des nouvelles, et que les routes, ou chemins militaires, établies sur les dites collines, seront détruits par le Gouvernement Ottoman.

Le Président recueille les voix sur cette proposition.

Les Commissaires d'Autriche-Hongrie, d'Angleterre, et d'Italie votent pour.

Les Commissaires de Russie et du Monténégro votent contre.

Le Commissaire de France vote également contre la ligne en question. En ce qui concerne la partie de la proposition relative à la neutralisation des collines, il serait d'autant plus disposé à l'adopter, qu'il a déjà formulé explicitement le même vœu, qui est la base de son projet général.

Les Commissaires de Turquie s'abstiennent, ainsi que le Commissaire d'Allemagne.

Le Bureau constate 3 voix pour, 3 voix contre, et 2 abstentions.

Le Commissaire de Russie, considérant que la Commission n'a pas réuni une majorité pour laisser les collines de Vrany, Chipchanik, Rogami (Milesh), au Monténégro, propose de se prononcer sur la neutralisation, non-seulement de ces trois collines, mais de toutes les positions occupées actuellement par les troupes Ottomanes au nord du Golfe de Liceni-Castrati et Hoti jusqu'au Zem.

Cette proposition est mise aux voix.

Danish Effendi proteste au nom de de la Délégation Ottomane contre cette proposition, qui soulève une question excédant le pouvoir de la Commission.

La Commission, à une majorité de 5 voix—celles des Commissaires d'Autriche-Hongrie, d'Angleterre, de France, d'Italie, et de Turquie; contre deux—celles des Commissaires du Monténégro et de la Turquie, refuse de saisir les Gouvernements de cette demande.

Le Commissaire d'Allemagne ne saurait se prononcer sur la question.

Le Président constate qu'à partir du sommet de Vrany jusqu'au Zem aucune ligne n'a réuni de majorité dans la Commission.

A la suite de cette constatation, le *Commissaire d'Italie* fait observer que les différents votes qui ont eu lieu n'ont pas donné des résultats pratiques, peut-être à cause du fractionnement de la ligne-frontière. Il espère qu'en proposant une ligne entière du point d'attache sur le lac jusqu'au Zem on pourrait réunir une majorité.

En conséquence, il propose une ligne qui, partant à 3½ kilom. à l'est du Plavnica de la Carte Autrichienne, gagne directement le pont du Zem, en laissant la grande colline de Vrania au Monténégro, et toutes les autres à la Turquie. Cette ligne, dont le Colonel Ottolenghi a déjà fait mention plus haut, correspond à celle de la Carte Autrichienne.

Le Président recueille les voix.

Les Commissaires d'Autriche-Hongrie, de France, de Grande Bretagne, de Turquie, et d'Allemagne votent contre.

Le Commissaire de Russie et celui du Monténégro acceptent la ligne jusqu'à la hauteur de Vrany, mais non plus loin. Or, le Commissaire d'Italie n'admettant pas de fractionnement, ils doivent voter contre.

Le Commissaire d'Italie vote pour.

En conséquence la proposition est repoussée par 7 voix contre 1.

La séance est suspendue de midi à 3 heures.

A la reprise de la séance *le Président* fait remarquer qu'il n'a été émis aucun vote spécial sur les tracés des deux parties intéressées. Il ne faudrait pas qu'on pût en induire que la Commission ait négligé systématiquement ces deux tracés. Il demande donc aux Commissaires de Turquie et du Monténégro s'ils croient nécessaires que leurs tracés soient soumis au vote de la Commission.

Les parties intéressées répondent affirmativement.

Le Président met aux voix le tracé du Monténégro qui est repoussée par 5 voix—celles des Commissaires d'Autriche-Hongrie, de France, de Grande Bretagne, d'Italie, et de Turquie; contre 2—celles des Commissaires de Russie et du Monténégro. Le Commissaire d'Allemagne s'abstient.

Le Président met aux voix le tracé Turc; ce tracé est repoussée par 7 voix contre 1.

La discussion est ouverte sur le tracé de la ligne partant du Zem dans la direction des Klémenti.

Danish Effendi demande que la Commission vote sur les deux points suivants:—

1. La Commission reconnaît-elle l'existence de la Kucka-Kraina?

2. Le Traité de Berlin attribue-t-il ce territoire à la Turquie?

Le Président consulte la Commission sur le premier point. La Commission répond affirmativement. Toutefois, les Commissaires de Russie et du Monténégro observent qu'ils ne donnent pas à cette dénomination le sens que paraît lui accorder le Traité de Berlin; ils ajoutent que la carte Autrichienne n'en fait pas mention.

Sur le second point la Commission se prononce à l'unanimité pour l'affirmative.

La Délégation Ottomane présente un tracé partant de Boiceu, et se dirigeant vers la frontière des Klémenti, jusqu'à Skala-Rikavatz.

Le Commissaire du Monténégro donne, de son côté, lecture de l'exposé suivant:

"Pour ce qui regarde la ligne depuis Dinosh jusqu'à Goussigné, on ne peut douter que le Congrès de Berlin a été pour cette ligne, comme pour celle de la plaine de la Zéta, guidé par le principe de séparation des deux éléments, Serbe et Albanais. Prenant en considération les vues du Congrès, et nous rapportant à l'enquête faite par la Commission, ainsi qu'aux sérieuses études qu'elle a faites du terrain, nous déclarons ce qui suit:—

"1. La tribu Serbe des Kouci s'étend de la Moratca à la Cievna; sur la rive droite de ce dernier cours d'eau il y a seulement les quatre petits villages: Pikali, Prifti, Lowka, et Silista, appartenant aux Grudi, et comptant ensemble une cinquantaine de maisons environ.

"2. La tribu de Kouci est une, indivisible, et n'est mêlée avec aucune autre tribu. Quand Chefket Pacha, ancien Gouverneur de Scutari, fit en 1872 la délimitation des Kouci, il n'a pas du tout songé à une séparation, mais il avait seulement laissé à part les

quatre petits villages précédemment nommés, ainsi que la partie des Klémenti qui se trouve en deçà de la Cievna.

"3. De l'enquête qui a été faite par la Commission, on a pu voir que les habitants d Kouci n'avaient aucune connaissance de l'existence de la Koneka-Kraïna, dans le sens que lui a attribué le Congrès de Berlin. De plus, sur la Carte de l'Etat-Major Autrichien, qui a servi de base au Traité, il n'y a nulle part d'inscrit Koneka-Kraïna, pas même dans la dernière édition, dans laquelle on a déjà introduit certaines corrections, et les officiers techniques qui ont fait cette partie de la carte, et qui ont désigné certaines montagnes et certains villages par leur véritable nom, n'auraient pas manqué de désigner un territoire d'une pareille étendue, s'il avait eu une dénomination particulière.

"4. Les Konci possèdent plusieurs pâturages considérables, comme Korita, Rikana, Veli-Polic, Stranć od Biotca, &c., qui leur sont en commun, et sur lesquels tous les Konci, depuis la Moratca jusqu'à la Cievna, avec un égal droit, viennent, et restent, l'été, avec leurs troupeaux. Cette circonstance que jamais ces pâturages n'ont été divisés, démontre clairement l'unité, l'indivisibilité des Konci, et l'impossibilité de les séparer sans de graves et sérieux dangers, sans causer leur ruine, sans des terribles et sanglants conflits qui ne manqueraient pas de se produire. Pendant leur excursion dans les Konci, MM. les Commissaires ont pu certainement s'assurer de l'impossibilité de diviser cette tribu.

"5. Nous présentons à la Commission la traduction de la supplique adressée et remise à Son Altesse le Prince Nicolas par toute la population des Konci, et d'après laquelle on peut voir que les Konci désirent intégralement être réunis à la Principauté. (Annexe 2 au présent Protocole.)

"D'après ce qui précède, et toujours avec la plus stricte observation du principe de la séparation des deux éléments, Serbe et Albanais, nous pensons que la ligne suivante répondrait aux véritables intentions du Congrès:—

"De Dinosh, la frontière irait, suivant les limites de la tribus des Konci, laissant à l'Albanie les quatre petits villages précédemment nommés, ainsi que la partie des Klémenti, qui se trouve de ce côté de la Cievna.

"Mais, d'autre part, nous avons à exposer ce qui suit: Comme une pareille ligne serait défectueuse, et ne serait pas naturelle, car:

"1. Elle nous séparerait et éloignerait de Goussigné, nouvelle acquisition qui doit être remise au Monténégro.

"2. Elle nous enlèverait l'unique et naturelle route qui conduit à Goussigné, et formant le seul lieu possible entre ce territoire et le Monténégro. En effet, de Podgorica à Goussigné par la vallée de la Cievna, il y a juste un jour, tandis que par le chemin qui contourne le Mont Kem il y a quatre jours; de plus, ce dernier chemin est, dans la mauvaise saison, c'est-à-dire depuis le mois d'Octobre jusqu'au mois d'Avril, impraticable, à cause des nombreuses rivières et de la grande quantité de neige. La route de la Cievna est donc complétement indispensable au Monténégro pour posséder Goussigné.

"Pour ce qui regarde Dinosh, ce village est aujourd'hui une ruine, mais il a compté soixante maisons. Les habitants sont venus, il y a à peu près un siècle et demi, du village Serbe de Matagoriche, et ont à cette époque embrassé la religion Musulmane. Parmi les familles qui ont émigré de Matagoriche, les unes s'étaient établies à Dinosh, les autres à Podgorica, où elles existent encore aujourd'hui. (Voir pour Dinosh le Mémoire déjà cité et annexé au Protocole.)

"D'après ce qui précède et pour faire disparaître les causes des futurs conflits, les Commissaires Monténégrins croient devoir servir également les intérêts des deux pays en proposant que la nouvelle frontière aille, en sortant de la plaine de la Zéta, par la vallée de la Cievna jusqu'à la bifurcation de cette rivière en Cievna des Voukels et en Cievna des Selci, puis le long de cette dernière jusqu'à la Peladia ou col de la Prekessa, de là par Boudoc, Godibić et Grteur à Goussigné. Si la frontière était tracée suivant cette ligne, sans laquelle toute autre ne serait ni pratique, ni naturelle; on attribuerait, il est vrai, au Monténégro les quatre petits villages déjà nommés, avec le village Selci de la tribu des Klémenti, et quelques montagnes, mais ceci pourrait être à peine pris en considération lorsqu'on a à déterminer une frontière naturelle, et qui présenterait toutes les garanties de paix pour l'avenir.

"Cependant, comme d'un côté le tracé d'une pareille ligne sortirait des attributions et du pouvoir de cette Commission, et que de l'autre le Monténégro doit, par les considérations et les raisons qui précèdent, attacher la plus sérieuse attention à des frontières naturelles, nous pensons que cette question devrait être soumise aux délibérations et aux décisions des Grandes Puissances. Nous sommes persuadés, du reste, que les rapports que MM. les Commissaires présenteront à leurs Gouvernements sur la valeur pratique de la ligne que nous proposons, donneront aux Cabinets une idée claire et précise sur l'impossibilité de la frontière, telle que l'a indiquée le Congrès de Berlin, et leur fourniront des bases pour une solution juste et équitable."

La Délégation Ottomane juge inutile de réfuter le Mémoire de la Mission Monténégrine; elle a la conviction que les Baïraks de la Kucka-Kraïna feront retour à la Turquie, conformément à la décision du Traité de Berlin.

Le Commissaire d'Angleterre déclare qu'il avait d'abord proposé que la Sous-Commission Topographe suivît, d'une manière générale, la ligne de la Carte Autrichienne dans la Kucka-Kraïna, mais sur le terrain il a été trouvé impossible de diviser les quatre Baïraks de la Kucka-Kraïna, qui sont mélangés, non-seulement entre eux, mais avec les Kutci-Drelakovic. D'autre part, le Traité est si explicite, qu'il est difficile de l'interpréter dans un sens différent. En résumé, il pense que l'on ne peut diviser la Kucka-Kraïna des Kutci-Drelakovic, et par conséquent que la question pourra être réglée par les Gouvernements, aux moyens de compensations territoriales.

Le Commissaire de France est d'avis que la ligne-frontière entre la plaine de Podgorica et les confins de Goussigné-Plava est, à cause de la question de la Kucka-Kraïna, impossible à déterminer par un vote.

Le texte stricte du Traité de Berlin obligerait la Commission à attribuer intégralement la Kucka-Kraïna à la Turquie; or, si les Hautes Parties Contractantes du Congrès avaient pu se rendre compte de la réalité des choses, comme l'ait fait les membres de la Commission, elles n'auraient jamais songé à une pareille attribution. En effet, les Kutchi de la Kucka-Kraïna, issus de la même famille que les Kutci-Drelakovic, ne pourraient en être séparés politiquement, sans des inconvénients qui sautent aux yeux. Deux au moins des des Baïraks de la Kucki-Kraïna, Tendina et Orahovo, sont de fait et de sentiment tout-à-fait Monténégrin, et le troisième, celui de Triebce, est tel par son esprit, que l'ordre y est maintenu par le Monténégro, non au moyen de soldats Monténégrins, mais au moyen des habitants eux-mêmes, formés en compagnies. Le quatrième Baïrak, celui de Koci, a vu, il est vrai, la plupart de ses habitants se réfugier sur territoire Turc, mais d'une part il ne compte que le nombre très-restreint de quarante maisons, et, d'autre part, il y a lieu de penser que les habitants émigrés en Turquie ne sont pas revenus chez eux uniquement à cause de l'état d'incertitude sur la démarcation future de la frontière.

Dans de telles conditions, attribuer la Kucka-Kraïna à la Turquie, serait faire une œuvre vaine et même grosse de conflits sanglants.

Une seconde solution est apportée par la ligne tracée sur la carte de l'Etat-Major Autrichien. Cette ligne divise la Kucka-Kraïna d'une façon d'ailleurs assez arbitraire. Les biens que réunissent les quatres Baïraks de la Kucka-Kraïna entre eux, et avec les Kutci-Drelakovic, liens qui ont entre autres une démonstration matérielle dans le fait de pâturages, communs aux uns et aux autres, ne permettent pas de songer à cette division.

La troisième solution consisterait à attribuer la Kucka-Kraïna avec ses quatre Baïraks au Monténégro. C'est, à l'avis de M. le Commissaire de France, la seule logique, la seule qui réponde à l'état des choses; mais elle est en contradiction absolue avec le texte du Traité de Berlin. Elle ne pourrait donc être adoptée que si les Hautes Puissances qui ont signé le Traité tombent d'accord pour qu'un moyen de compensations territoriales (sur lesquelles il ne serait sans doute pas impossible d'amener les deux parties intéressées à une entente) le Kucka-Kraïna pût rester entier au Monténégro. C'est cette solution à laquelle s'arrête le Commissaire de France, en émettant la proposition suivante: "La Commission remet la fixation de la frontière, à partir de la plaine de Podgorica aux confins de Goussigné, et au-delà dans le district de Goussigné-Plava, jusqu'à ce que les Puissances puissent, en présence des difficultés que soulève la question de la Kucka-Kraïna, donner leur avis sur la possibilité de régler la question au moyen de compensations territoriales dans ces régions.

Dans cette hypothèse la ligne à établir, partant d'un point voisin de Dinosh, qui resterait à la Turquie, suivrait la frontière Suden la Kucka-Kraïna, laissant à la tribu des Grudi les quatre villages qui lui appartiennent: Picali, Lofka, Setisse, Pristni, et longeant ensuite la frontière des Klémenti jusqu'aux confins de Goussigné."

Le Commissaire d'Angleterre pense que, si la Commission s'arrêtait à la solution qui vient d'être exposée, et qu'elle remit aux Cabinets à se prononcer, elle devrait nécessairement déterminer exactement toutes les limites de la Kucka-Kraïna, et celles des Klémenti, afin de fournir ainsi aux Puissances une base d'appréciation. Le Capitaine Sale appuie sous ce rapport la proposition de M. le Commissaire de France.

Le Premier Commissaire Ottoman déclare qu'il ne saurait admettre le point de vue auquel s'est placé son collègue de France dans sa déclaration.

Le Commissaire de Russie donne lecture d'un document ci annexé (Annexe 3 au présent Protocole), dans lequel il développe son opinion sur la question. M. le Baron Kaulbars fait également une proposition dans le sens de celles des Commissaires de France et d'Angleterre.

La Délégation Ottomane, en réponse à M. le Colonel Kaulbars, exprime la surprise que ces objections n'aient pas été faites au sein du Congrès. Le Traité de Berlin, qui

porte la signature de MM. les Plénipotentiaires de Russie, ne saurait être mis en question, en ce qui concerne la Kucka-Kraïna, pour des considérations qui ne sauraient être admises par le Turquie.

M. le Capitaine Sauerwald désire avant que la Commission passe à la délimitation des frontières de la Kucka-Kraïna, faire savoir que, quant aux déclarations recueillies à différentes reprises par la Commission à ce sujet, il a vérifié l'existence des noms des localités sur les lieux.

Les Commissaires d'Angleterre et de Russie s'associent à cette remarque.

Le Président prie MM. les membres de la Sous-Commission Topographique de vouloir bien faire l'énoncé de la frontière en question.

"La frontière de la Kucka-Kraïna part de la cime de le Vaïna, d'où elle se dirige dans la direction du nord-quart-est sur le sommet le plus élevé de la Kaka-Ricka-Gora, nommé Boïan, de là sur la cime de l'Ostrica en laissant la localité de Buzo-Ranicka à la Kucka-Kraïna, puis en ligne droite sur le rocher nommé Svizda. De là sur les cimes suivantes: Gairi-Melemitch, Ricvic, Kevstnik, Listnik. De cette dernière cime la ligne descend sur la Selle-Prehoc, d'où elle suit les hauteurs entre les villages Beziovo et Crahovo pour atteindre directement les localités appelés Kiafa, Mkites. La ligne monte alors sur les contreforts de la Zihova nommés Racnja, en suivant la crête de la Zihova jusqu'à la cime, d'où elle se dirige au sud-est jusqu'à la localité de Kunura Bourkouv, De là la frontière, dans la direction nord-est, se confond avec le chemin jusqu'à la Kiafa Gastich (Velia), col qui se trouve entre la montagne Bezaze et Stitani; elle se dirige en ligne directe sur la partie sud du lac de Rikavaz, où elle se confond avec les confins des Kuci-Drakalovich et des Klémenti. De là la frontière continue entre les Klémenti et les Kucka-Kraïna. Du lac de Rikavaz gravit les cimes du Vila, d'où elle descend à la cime plus bas Maja l'Nerzit. De ce point la frontière traverse les groupes nommés Slapa pour gravir la cime de Kunj-Kostic. De là, en ligne directe, elle gagne la Skala-Zlomestic puis la cime ouest de Sakal. De là elle suit le bord du précipice Skambri-Sakal, puis par la ligne des hauteurs, monte sur la crête de Suka Milce pour suivre ensuite le bord du précipice jusqu'à la cime appelée Hunkuca, au sud de Daprat, d'où elle va rejoindre le Zem en face du Han Grabou.

"Du Han Grabou elle suit le cours du Zem (MM. les Commissaires de Russie et du Monténégro sont d'avis qu'il y a une parcelle de Kuci sur la rive gauche du Zem, qui sépare le Hoti de la Kucka-Kraïna, et qui longe le pied des montagnes entre la Skala-Rapsche et un endroit nommé Gromec, où elle repasse sur la rive droite du Zem pour monter dans la gorge de Delaï), MM. les Capitaines Sale et Sauerwald pensent au contraire que la frontière de la Kucka-Kraïna suit la rive droite du Zem jusqu'à la gorge de Delaï, nommée Skala Smedech).

"Du bord du précipice de Delaï la ligne remonte le contrefort du Suka-Gruda entre Muzich et Scliste, contrefort nommé Suka Mahame (Suka Nagriva). Elle gagne la cime de Suka-Gruda, d'où elle atteint directement Lapari, qui est à Tundina. Enfin elle va directement sur Gradista (laissant Ledina à la Kucka-Kraïna), d'où elle gagne presque en ligne droite les hauteurs de Vaïna en passant par les deux mamelons intermédiaires."

La Commission passe ensuite à la détermination de la frontière des Klémenti à partir du lac de Rikavaz.

"La ligne descend la Skala-Rikavaz et va directement jusqu'à Kiafa-Braks, ensuite elle traverse la plaine de Velipoli directement jusqu'à Plavnica."

MM. les Commissaires de Russie et du Monténégro présentent une variante:—

"En partant du sud de Rikavaz la frontière atteint directement la cime sud de la Vela, puis elle descend sur le col Sug-Odvila, suit le Patak Skrobotouch dans toute sa longueur, passe dans la Vallée de Velipoli, le Vouci Patak, et remonte la Tareicia Patak, jusqu'à la Skala-Drakalvich."

La séance est levée à 7 heures.

Fait à Podgoriea le 7 Septembre, 1879.

(Signé) TESTA.
LIPPICH.
COLONNA CECCALDI.
M. T. SALE.
OTTOLENGHI.
POPOVIC.
KAULBARS.
RIZA.

Annexe 1 au Protocole No. 25.

Accord établi entre les Commissaires Turco-Monténégrins, réunis à Vir-Bazar pour s'entendre sur le mode d'évacuation et d'occupation des territoires sis dans le Vilayet de Scutari d'Albanie, Podgoritza, Spousa, et Zabliak, qui doivent être cédés au Monténégro conformément aux stipulations du Traité de Berlin, et des localités qui, actuellement occupées par les troupes Monténégrines, doivent être restituées aux autorités Impériales Ottomanes.

1. L'évacuation et l'occupation des territoires cédés au Monténégro, et des localités occupées par les troupes Monténégrines, et qui doivent être restituées au Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman, doivent avoir lieu dans un terme de deux jours, à partir du cinquième jour de l'échange du présent Acte, c'est-à-dire du 26 au 27 Janvier (v. s.), 1879; l'évacuation et l'occupation des territoires sus-mentionnés aura lieu simultanément et dans l'ordre suivant:

Le Vendredi, 26 Janvier, 1879 (v. s.), les troupes Ottomanes, composant la garnison à Zabliak, quitteront la forteresse à midi précis. A la même heure les troupes Monténégrines prendront possession de la place.

Le même jour, et à la même heure, des troupes Monténégrines évacueront Chucheraz (Saint Georges) et Chinkel (Saint Nicolas), villages situés sur la rive droite de la Boyana, ainsi que tous les postes situés entre ces deux localités.

Le jour même de l'évacuation par les troupes Monténégrines des villages sus-mentionnés, la libre navigation de la Boyana sera ouverte pour la Turquie et le Monténégro.

Le Samedi, 27 du même mois, les troupes Ottomanes commenceront à évacuer dès 7 heures du matin, le camp retranché de Spousa-Podgoritza, ainsi que ses dépendances; l'évacuation aura lieu dans l'ordre suivant:

Une colonne, composée des garnisons d'Ismaïl Pacha, Dervish Pacha Koulé, Spouse, Kapou Tabin, Hamidié, Plotcha, Serdar, Avnié, Hifzié, et Soouksou, prendra la route de Veli Brdo; à son passage du sommet de cette colline, les garnisons de Chifketié et Azizié se joindront à elle; d'où elle continuera sa marche jusqu'à Tchenguel-Koulé, pour se diriger ensuite para l plaine vers le pont du Vizir, qu'elle traversera, et ira rejoindre la garnison de Podgoritza.

Une seconde colonne, composée des garnisons des Koulés, situées le long de la Skala, se mettre en marche le même jour et à la même heure, et suivra cette route, en se dirigeant vers le pont du Vizir, qu'elle traversera pour se joindre à la garnison de Podgoritza.

Une troisème colonne, composéo du camp du Mali Brda, descendra cette colline, et après avoir traversé le pont du Vizir, ira également rejoindre la garnsion de Podgoritza. Ces trois colonnes sus-mentionnées doivent atteindre Podgoritza dans l'espace de trois heures. Ces troupes, réunies à la garnison de Podgoritza et de ses environs, se mettront en marche à midi précis, pour traverser, avant la tombée de la nuit, la nouvelle frontière présumée.

Les Commissaires, n'ayant pas pu s'entendre en ce qui concerne le pont de Zem, décidèrent d'y laisser la garnison Ottomane. Les postes Monténégrins se tiendront à une distance de 1,000 mètres du pont; on supposera une ligne figurée, partant du pont vers la Plavnitza, et les deux parties se tiendront à 600 mètres de chaque côté de cette ligne.

Le même jour et aux mêmes heures, les troupes Monténégrines prendront possession des endroits évacués par les troupes Impériales Ottomanes, et dans le même ordre de leur évacuation.

Le 27 du même mois, et à la même heure, les troupes Monténégrines commenceront à évacuer les localités occupées par elles, et qui doivent être rétrocédées au Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman. L'évacuation aura lieu dans l'ordre suivant:—

Une colonne, composée des troupes qui occupent le versant sud de la chaîne des montagnes de la Craïna, situé entre le Lac de Scutari et la mer, se mettra en marche pour rejoindre la nouvelle frontière Monténégrine présumée, jusqu'au pont du Mirkovitch.

Une seconde colonne, composée de la garnison Monténégrine de Dulcigno, se mettra en mouvement, et traversera la nouvelle frontière présumée, jusqu'à Vrea Kruci.

Une troisième colonne, composée des postes Montenégrins, situés sur le versant nord des montagnes de la Craïna, se dirigera vers la nouvelle frontière présumée.

En ce qui concerne la Craïna, les Commissaires ne connaissant pas suffisamment les localités à occuper ou à évacuer, tombent d'accord, pour l'envoi sur les lieux, de Délégués de part et d'autre, pour fixer approximativement, en consultant les populations, la nouvelle frontière présumée.

Les troupes Monténégrines commenceront à évacuer le camp de Dinosh, à la même date et la même heure, en traversant la nouvelle frontière présumée.

En ce que concerne la Koucka-Krajna, les Commissaires ne connaissant pas suffisamment les localités à occuper ou à évacuer, tombent d'accord pour l'envoi sur les lieux de Délégués de part et d'autre, pour fixer approximativement, en consultant la population, la nouvelle frontière présumée.

Le même jour et à la même heure, les troupes Impériales Ottomanes prendront possession des localités évacuées par les troupes Monténégrines.

Pour éviter toute espèce de malentendu, les Commissaires décident que les troupes de part et d'autre se tiendront, sur tout le parcours de cette ligne, à 500 mètres de distance, jusqu'à la décision de la Commission de Délimitation,

2. Toutes les facilités seront accordées aux habitants qui voudront émigrer des localités annexées au Monténégro, dans le terme de trois ans, tant pour l'aliénation de leurs biens, que pour leur émigration.

3. Les objets et les armes en dépôt, ou se trouvant entre les mains des populations, et appartenant aux deux Gouvernements, et qui ne pourront pas être enlevés jusqu' au jour de l'évacuation, seront confiés aux soins des autorités locales, et restitués à qui de droit. Les malades, se trouvant dans les hôpitaux militaires, dont l'état ne permettra pas le transport, continueront à être soignés dans les mêmes hôpitaux par les soins des médicins militaires Ottomans, jusqu'à leur rétablissement.

4. En ce qui concerne les documents constatant les droits de propriété, les Tribunaux Monténégrins reconnaissant toute pièce authentique émanant des autorités Impériales Ottomanes, les Commissaires passent outre.

5, Les Commissaires Ottomans ayant soulevé la question des propriétés de l'Etat et des Vakoufs, relativement à leur désignation, et les Commissaires Monténégrins ayant déclaré que cette question est en dehors de leurs instructions, proposent qu'un employé des autorités Impériales Ottomanes s'adresse à ce sujet aux futures autorités locales Monténégrines pour dresser l'inventaire des objets connus par lui.

6. Les Commissaires Monténégrins ayant soumis la question de la remise de Plav-Goussigné, les Commissaires Ottomans déclarent n'avoir pas d'instructions à ce sujet, mais qu'ils sont seulement autorisés à s'entendre sur la remise des territoires cédés au Monténégro, et sis dans le Vilayet de Scutari d'Albanie. Les Commissaires Monténégrins ayant déclaré qu'une remise officielle leur paraît indispensable, leurs collègues Ottomans les prient de laisser cette question à l'entente des deux Gouvernements.

Fait en double, Vir-Bazar, le 21 Janvier, 1879 (v.s.)

Pour la Turquie :

Pour le Gouverneur-Général,

(Signé) RIZA.
SULIMAN CHERKE.
AALY.

Pour le Monténégro :

(Signé) V. S. RADONITCH.
SIMO POPOVIC.

Annexe 2 au Protocole No. 25.

Supplique adressée à Son Altesse le Prince du Monténégro par les Populations des Kouci, le $\frac{19}{31}$ Août, 1879.

Altesse, notre glorieux et bien-aimé Maître.

Dès que la Commission Européenne vint à Podgoritza et se rendit dans les Kouci, sur la Souka, nous fûmes tous frappés par la douloureuse nouvelle que la Commission avait l'intention de nous partager, en laissant une partie au Monténégro, et en donnant l'autre à la Turquie.

Nous tous Kouci, nous formons une seule tribu qui est comme une famille, de la Maratca à la Cievna. A l'exception des quatre petits villages : Pekali, Lowka, Prifti, et Sélista, de la tribu des Groudi, et qui se trouvent sur les bords de la rive droite de cette dernière rivière, tout est pur Kouci. Tous les Kouci forment une seule âme, et, de même que nous sommes toujours restés unis à Zoi, à sa glorieuse famille et à notre cher Monténégro, nous avons aussi combattu héroïquement sous les drapeaux pendant la dernière guerre, dans laquelle plus de 200 des nôtres ont péri sur le champ de bataille.

Nous ne regrettons pas leur mort ; nous nous enorgueillissons au contraire de leur

courage, et nous nous trouvions heureux plus que jamais, de ce que tu nous avais délivrés, pris sous ta protection, et réunis avec les Monténégrins, qui sont pour nous des frères inséparables et de la même origine Serbe. Tu nous a donné l'organisation militaire et des lois justes ; nous commencions à goûter de la vie douce et tranquille que depuis tant de siècles nous ignorions ; car pendant qu'une partie des Kouci jouissait de la liberté dans notre patrie, l'autre soupirait pour lui, pour ses frères libres, et vivait sur une terre où il n'y avait pas de lois ; sous un maître étranger, et en luttes continuelles avec les tribus Albanaises.

Si on nous séparait de nouveau aujourd'hui, nous n'aurions plus aucun espoir, et nous serions ruinés pour toujours.

En conséquence, Altesse, le peuple tout entier de Kouci te prie de faire ramener ses cris et ses plaintes jusqu'au pied des Trônes Européens, afin qu'on ne sépare pas des frères, et qu'on ne précipite pas dans une ruine certaine un peuple qui a tant souffert. Nous voulons qu'on nous laisse au Monténégro, avec lequel nous formons un seul corps, et sous son Gouvernement, sous lequel nous sommes si heureux.

Décidé en grande Assemblée populaire à Medoune le $\frac{19}{31}$ Août, 1879, au nom du peuple entier des Kouci, les Chefs délégués :—

Pour Zatriébac—
- Marasche Markov, Capitaine.
- Nico Ghiline, Porte Drapeau.
- Pioko Meraschev, Sous-Lieutenant.
- Smaïl Prencitine, Perianik.
- Galo Smailov, Perianik.
- Dodo Ivanov.
- Vorikçan Ghégine.

Pour Tundina—
- Nicolas Vouler, Maire.
- Giouro Savov, Sous-Lieutenant.
- Milov Spaçov, Porte Drapeau.
- Toko Radovanov, Sous-Officier.
- Kourta Ramov, Officier en retraite.
- Selman Ouçov.
- Batzo Vouksanov.

Pour Bezievo—
- Radoçat Roczinć, Maire.
- Petar Radochev, Lieutenant.
- Radoic Radoçavov, Porte Drapeau.
- Miho Radochev, Perianik.
- Mileta Stanichine.
- Stanoié Voulev.
- Milouv Piokine.

Pour Siénitca—
- Voïvoda Vaso, Commandant.
- Stanko Giourov, Lieutenant.
- Porinicha Miloschev, Porte Drapeau.
- Mirko Stankov, Perianik.

Pour Siénitca (*suite*)—
- Ilia Lorikine, Maire.
- Voulé Spahov.
- Radoié Novakov, Sous-Officier.
- Lako Milovanov.

Pour Koccié—
- Ouca Maraschev, Lieutenant.
- Dedoriche Vocïov, Porte Drapeau.
- Lalouche Vocïov.
- Tomo Préline, Sous-Officier.
- Smaïl Vocïov.
- Marasche Ouïkov, Maire.
- Prenco Maraschev.

Pour Medoune—
- Ilia Lorikine, Capitaine, et 15 autres signatures.

Pour Orahovo—
- 8 signatures.

Pour Liesehta—
- 7 signatures.

Pour Kosjar—
- 8 signatures.

Pour Biotec—
- 8 signatures.

Pour Oubli—
- 14 signatures.

Pour Kruni-Dô—
- 7 signatures.

Le Secrétaire de l'Assemblée, témoin des signatures.

(Signé) VOUKO PAPOVICH (de Kossov).

Annexe 3 au Protocole No. 25.

Exposé du Colonel Baron Kaulbars.

L'enquête faite par la Commission au sujet des Kuci, et plus encore, la reconnaissance de ce pays même, nous ont suffisamment renseigné sur cette question.

Il ne peut pas être de doute que de tout temps les Kouci-Drekalovichi, et les Kuci-Krajna ne faisaient qu'une seule et même tribu. La dénomination "Kraïna" n'est qu'une suite des guerres fréquentes que les Kuci avaient avec leurs voisins. On nommait en temps de guerre "Krajna" la partie du pays qui était limitrophe à l'ennemi. "Krajna" provient du mot Slav "Kraj" (Край), "Okraina" (Окраина), c'est-à-dire le bord, le pays adjaçant à la frontière. De là provient le nom très-connu de "l'Oucraine," que

porte encore la partie sud de Russie d'Europe, où indistinctement s'était développée une population guerrière, "les Cosacks," pour défendre le reste du pays contre les attaques des Tatars.

Nous avons constaté que la dénomination Krajna, par rapport aux Kuci, n'a pas toujours été donnée au pays sur la rive droite de la Cjevna qui la porte en ce moment, mais que bien d'autres parties de ce pays se nommaient Krajna à leur tour, suivant la direction dans laquelle on faisait la guerre. Ainsi, il y avait un temps où la partie Fundina portait le nom de Krajna, une autre fois c'était celle de Bioci, bordant la Moraca, &c. Les Kuci-Drekalovichi et Krajna n'étaient donc jamais séparés, ils ne faisaient qu'une seule tribu des "Kuci," ayant les mêmes mœurs et les mêmes intérêts.

Les considérations suivantes prouvent encore plus ce que je viens de dire :—

1. L'Administration Ottomane de son temps n'a jamais fait de différence entre les Kuci-Drekalovichi et Krajna. Tous les Kuci étaient divisés en un certain nombre de Baïraks et le centre de l'Administration de la tribu entière se trouvait à Medun.

2. Tous les Kuci ont des pâturages communs à toute la tribu, et pendant notre séjour dans ce pays, nous avons vu les troupeaux des parties les plus éloignées des Kuci paître ensemble sur les mêmes prairies de Korito, Kostica, Lac de Rikawac Sirokar, &c.

3. Le pays des Kuci en ce moment-ci est administré par le Monténégro, et suit de bonne volonté, sans qu'il y ait nécessité d'aucune pression, la loi de la Principauté. Le pays tout entier est divisé en bataillons comme le reste du Monténégro, et les capitaines et commandants, ainsi que les troupes, ne sont pas Monténégrins, mais du pays même. Contre cet état de choses les Kuci de la Krajna ne font non-seulement d'objection, mais encore désirent rester unis aux Drekalovichi, qu'ils regardent comme étant de leur propre famille. Des gens qui habitent le pays depuis des dixaines d'années, comme, par exemple, les deux Padres Catholiques, Secondiano d'a Firenze, et Ludovico d'Alsasso, regardent la séparation des Drekalovichi et Krajna de fait, comme impossible, et pensent qu'une séparation de force ne pourrait pas se faire sans verser du sang.

4. Tous les membres de notre Commission ont pu s'apercevoir que la compagnie d'escorte qui nous a accompagné dans les Kuci, n'était composée que des gens du pays même. Il y avait des représentants de tous les villages Krajna et Drekalovichi, mêlés ensemble et faisant compagnie sous les ordres d'officiers et d'un Voïvode du même pays. Les gens de la Krajna savent parfaitement bien que le Congrès de Berlin les laisse à l'Albanie, et tous ceux qui connaissent les mœurs et les habitudes de ces tribus montagnardes, devront connaître que le fait que je viens de citer n'est qu'une suite de l'unité complète qui existe entre les Drekalovichi et Krajna. Cette unité d'intérêts est maintenue, tout en permettant aux Kuci des parties nord d'être de religion Orthodoxe et de parler le Slave, et aux Kuci du sud, d'être pour la plupart Catholiques, et de parler particulièrement l'Albanais, ce qui s'explique facilement par le contact avec l'Albanie pendant de longues années.

5. Les limites entre les Drekalovichi et Krajna sont très-difficiles à établir, parce qu'elles n'ont jamais existé de fait. On pourrait se tenir aux limites des Baïraks, mais ces limites ne séparent que des villages de la même tribu, et n'ont aucune valeur ethnographique. Même le Congrès de Berlin, tout en laissant les Krajna à l'Albanie, ne tient aucun compte de leurs limites, et fait passer son tracé d'Orohawo et de Fundina, et j'ajouterai que le Représentant de la Turquie au Congrès, son Excellence Carathéodory Pacha, n'a pas fait la moindre objection, en voyant que le tracé du Congrès coupait en deux la Krajna, et attribuait au Monténégro une partie considérable des Klémenti, à en juger d'après la Carte que le Gouvernement Ottoman a présentée à ce sujet aux Cabinets Européens.

6. Aucune Carte publiée jusqu'ici ne porte l'indication d'une Krajna, tandis que les Kuci-Drekalovichi sont partout indiqués, et même la nouvelle édition de la Carte de l'Etat-Major Autrichien, apparue après le Congrès de Berlin, n'en fait pas mention.

Toutes ces raisons sont plus que suffisantes pour démontrer que les Kuci ne devraient pas être divisés et qu'il serait plus juste d'attribuer au Monténégro la tribu entière.

Mais il y a encore une autre considération :—

Le Congrès de Berlin attribue au Monténégro le district de Goussigné-Plava ; mais pour des raisons qui me sont inconnues, et qui pourraient n'être qu'un malentendu, il laisse à l'Albanie la Vallée du Sem (Cjevna), le seul chemin praticable qui unit ce district au Monténégro. On pourrait peut-être me répondre que le Congrès tenait à l'intégrité des tribus Albanaises, et notamment à celles des Gruda et Klémenti, qui ont des possessions sur la rive droite de cette rivière, mais je ferai remarquer que le Congrès, à en juger d'après la Carte sus-mentionnée au Gouvernement Ottoman, a fait son tracé au détriment des Klémenti.

"La reconnaissance que nous avons faite dans les Kuci a démontré qu'en effet, si on

acceptait le Sem (Cjevna) comme frontière, on ne pourrait le faire qu'au détriment des Klémenti et Gruda, mais, d'un autre côté, il faudrait prendre en considération que le gros des tribus susmentionnées se trouve dans les montagnes de la rive gauche du Sem, et que sur la rive droite ces tribus ne possèdent que quelques petits villages et des pâturages, dont la jouissance pourrait leur être accordée même si le pays change de maître. Que depuis l'annexion au Monténégro du district Goussigné, la route par la Vallée du Sem a acquis pour la Principauté une valeur très-notable, stratégique, et administrative, comme seule route praticable en tout temps. Que cette route, depuis l'annexion de Goussigné au Monténégro, a perdu toute valeur pour la Turquie, et n'est qu'un moyen de communication locale entre les petits villages de la vallée.

Prenant en considération tout ce que je viens de dire, la Commission se trouvait devant deux tracés alternatifs :—

"1. L'un suivant à peu près les limites sud des Kuci, et s'attachant à celui que j'ai proposé pour la plaine, devrait commencer par le sommet du Mont Sukaj-Gruda, et poursuivre la crête des montagnes qui séparent les villages Selitte et Nikmaros, jusqu'au bord du grand précipice qui flanque la rive droite de la Cjevna proprement dite, et de la Cjevna de Selci. Puis, en suivant toujours le haut bord du précipice, le tracé passerait au sud des villages Delaz et Benkaj, au sud et à l'est de la localité Poprad ; par le Mont Sukaj-Milca ; le Skambi-Sokolit, et le Mont Sokol, jusqu'au sentier Skala-Zlomestit, qui descend Korito à Selci. Puis il suivrait le haut bord du précipice de Grear et celui du ravin Slap, au fond duquel coule le ruisseau le Perucica. Des sources du Perucica le tracé se dirigerait sur la cime du cône rocailleux nommé Maja-Z'nerzit ; de là il passerait par le sommet sud du Mont Vila, pour redescendre sur le col nommé Luc-ot-Vilo, d'où il suivrait, en le descendant, le thalweg du ruisseau Skrobo Tuscha jusqu'au point où, à l'avenir, la Commission jugerait convenable de faire tourner la frontière vers le sud-est pour contourner le district Goussigné-Plava.

2. L'autre, suivant toute la Vallée de la Cjevna, et celle de la Cjevna de Selci, remonterait cette dernière jusqu'à sa source "Vanato Grobs," et monterait sur le col de la Troïca (Trajan) nommé Challa Perdeleca.

Je n'ai pas besoin de dire que le second tracé m'est bien plus sympathique que le premier ; mais ils ont tous deux le grand inconvénient d'être en désaccord avec le Traité de Berlin, qui doit nous guider. Malheureusement je ne vois pas la possibilité d'en proposer un troisième, qui serait d'accord avec tous les éléments du Traité qui a servi de base, et tout en faisant moi-même mes réserves sur les deux tracés, je me bornerai de prier mes collègues de bien vouloir exposer leurs opinions à ce sujet, pour donner aux Gouvernements, qui décideront définitivement, tous les éléments propres à l'éclaircissement de cette grave question.

(Signé) Colonel Baron KAULBARS I,
Commissaire de Russie.

Inclosure 3 in No. 269.

Protocole No. 26.—*Séance du* 8 *Septembre*, 1879.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Capitaine Testa.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Consul-Général Lippich,
M. le Capitaine Sauerwald.

Pour la France—
M. le Consul-Général Comte Colonna Ceccaldi,
M. le Baron d'Estournelles de Constant.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Capitaine Sale,
M. le Lieutenant Caillard.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Ottolenghi.

Pour le Moténégro—
M. Simo Popovic,
M. Nico Matanovich.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Baron Nicolas Kaulbars I.

Pour la Turquie—
M. le Général de Brigade Veli Riza Pacha,
M. le Consul-Général Danish Effendi,
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Bedri Bey.
M. le Adjutant-Major Sabri Bey.

LA séance est ouverte à 9 heures.

Le Protocole de la séance précédente est lu et approuvé.

Le Président prend la parole en ces termes :—

"M. le Consul-Général Lippich a remis à chacun de nous un certain nombre d'exemplaires remarquablement imprimés par les soins de son Gouvernement, de chacun de nos seize premiers Protocoles. Je crois être l'interprète des sentiments de mes collègues en priant M. le Commissaire de l'Autriche-Hongrie de soumettre à son Gouvernement l'expression de toute la gratitude de la Commission."

Danish Effendi lit un Mémoire responsif de la Délégation Ottomane à l'exposé présenté dans la séance d'hier par les Commissaires du Monténégro lors de la discussion du tracé de la Koucka-Kraïna (voir Annexe 1).

Le Deuxième Commissaire du Monténégro donne également lecture d'une note tendant à réfuter le Mémoire remis à la Commission concernant le même tracé (voir Annexe 2).

Le Capitaine Sauerwald observe que la Délégation Ottomane l'a mentionné dans le Mémoire dont il a été donné lecture en dernier lieu comme ayant fourni les indications les plus exactes sur la frontière entre la Koucka-Kraïni et les Drekalovici. Il croit devoir objecter qu'il n'a constaté sur le terrain que la frontière mentionnée par les témoins Peternik-Hodga Bashi, de Koca, et Stajan Djeh, de Orahova, en présence de toute la Commission entre la Koucka-Kraïna et le Drekalovici, sans assumer une responsabilité quelconque pour les exactitudes de ses dépositions. Du moment que les Monténégrins ont nié l'existence de la Koucka-Kraïna et de le frontière entre cette dernière et les Drekalovici, il était impossible de contrôler les déclarations en question.

Le Président, se référant aux délibérations contenue dans le Protocole No. 25, concernant la frontière de la Koucka-Kraïna, met aux voix la proposition formulée ainsi :

1. Si les Cabinets s'en tenaient au texte strict de l'Article XXVIII, laissant la Koucka-Kraïna à la Turquie, la ligne proposée par M. le Commissaire de France, de Grande Bretagne, et de l'Italie partirait du moulin du Zem, restant à la Turquie, au nord-ouest de Rogami, et irait rejoindre les limites de la Koucka-Kraïna en ligne directe, en laissant Omerbojo à l'est, et rencontrant la crête des hauteurs de Vojna et de Boicin.

Le Bureau constate la votation suivante :—Les Commissaires de l'Autriche, la Grande Bretagne, la France, et l'Italie pour; la Russie et le Monténégro contre; et deux abstentions—la Turquie et l'Allemagne.

2. Si, au contraire, les Cabinets jugeaient que, au moyen de compensation territoriale à régler par leur intermédiaire et avec l'adhésion des parties intéressées, la Koucka-Kraïna devait être laissée au Monténégro, la ligne proposée par MM. les Commissaires de France, de Grande Bretagne, et d'Italie partant du même point, se rendrait directement sur la hauteur de Vojna, en laissant toujours Omerbojo à l'est, pour venir ensuite à peu près directement à Gradiste, en passant par deux mamelons intermédiaires pour suivre ensuite les limites de la Koucka-Kraïna du côté des Klémenti.

La votation donne les résultats suivants :—

Les Commissaires d'Autriche-Hongrie, de Grande Bretagne, de France, et d'Italie pour;

Les Commissaires d'Allemagne, du Monténégro, de Russie, et de Turquie se réservent.

M. le Commissaire de Russie en acceptant le point de départ du moulin du Zem, dirige ensuite la ligne en suivant le cours du Zem jusqu'à sa sortie de la montagne, et remonte sur la cime de la Suka-i-Grudi.

MM. les Commissaires Monténégrins acceptant également le point de départ du Rogami, se rapportent à leur Mémoire présenté dans la séance d'hier, et s'en rapportent aux décisions des Puissances.

Les Commissaires de Turquie admettraient une ligne qui, partant du moulin Hadji Mouktar traverserait la plaine gagnant directement Vojna et Boicin, ligne qui, suivant eux, sépare les Grudi de Podgoritza.

Le Baron Kaulbars fait observer qu'il a des raisons de penser que, si les Gouvernements acceptaient comme frontière la limite nord de la Kraïna, des considérations stratégiques les empêcheraient de se trouver d'accord pour diriger la ligne du moulin du Zem vers le Boicin, point qui se trouve seulement à 4 kilom. de Podgoritza. En effet, le Congrès a reconnu que même les positions de Dinosh étaient préjudiciables à la sécurité de cette ville.

La Commission passe ensuite à la votation du tracé de la frontière des Klémenti énoncé hier pas MM. les Capitaines Sale et Sauerwald, ainsi que par M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Bedri Bey, du Lac de Rikavac passant par Cafa Braks sur le Planinica.

Ont voté pour : MM. les Commissaires d'Autriche, de France, d'Angleterre, d'Italie, et de Turquie.

Se sont réservés : MM. les Commissaires d'Allemagne, du Monténégro, et de Russie.

Quant à la frontière totale de la Koucka-Kraïna, la Commission admet les limites fixées au Protocole No. 25, sauf modifications indiquées par M. le Colonel Kaulbars.

Le Capitaine Sale demande à la Commission si elle a l'intention de fixer les limités de Spizza, et, dans le cas affirmatif, à quelle époque elle procéderait à ce travail.

D'après les déclarations des Commissaires d'Autriche et du Monténégro, cette frontière a déjà été réglée par leur deux Gouvernements, qui remettront à la Commission sur le vœu qu'elle en a exprimé, les croquis et les cahiers de spécifications y relatifs, à l'échelle adoptée par la Commission.

Sur la demande de *M. le Commissaire d'Autriche*, le Président met aux voix la neutralisation du pont du Zem dans le cas où les Puissances adopteraient le tracé qui passe par ce pont, auquel cas la ligne-frontière traverserait le pont par le milieu.

Le résultat de la votation donne 4 voix—celles de MM. les Commissaires d'Autriche, de France, de Grande Bretagne, et d'Italie; les Commissaires de Turquie, d'Allemagne, du Monténégro, et de Russie s'abstiennent.

La séance est suspendue à midi et reprise à 4 heures.

Danish Effendi prend la parole et remarque que M. le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie ayant bien voulu se charger de l'impression des Protocoles, pour que ce travail fût complet, il serait à désirer que des croquis déposés aux archives soient joints aux exemplaires de ces Protocoles. N'y aura-t-il pas un moyen de reproduire ces croquis en nombre suffisant par un procédé special.

Le Commissaire de Grande Bretagne dit qu'il se trouvera à Londres les procédés nécessaires de réproduction par la photographie, et que, si la Commission désire, il est disposé à prendre sur lui ce soin.

La Commission appuie le désir exprimé par Danish Effendi, et accepte l'offre de M. le Capitaine Sale en le remerciant.

La Commission constatant qu'elle avait terminé ses travaux sur la frontière de l'Albanie aussi loin qu'il lui a été possible de la pousser, la situation de Goussigné-Plava ne

lui permettant pas de les poursuivre dans cette direction, c'est à leur poser la question de savoir si elle devait reprendre une autre série d'opérations, dans la direction de Kolashin, et du cours de la Tara.

Après délibération, considerant que ces opérations nouvelles prendraient une période s'étendant de la mi-Septembre à la mi-Octobre, et que d'après renseignements recueillis il est à peu près certain qu'à cette époque de l'année les pluies et les mauvais temps qui ont déjà commencé rendraient impossible le voyage et le séjour de la Commission de Délimitation dans ces pays montagneux et dépourvus d'habitations; qu'en outre les travaux topographiques de la Commission n'y seront pas possibles;

Considérant d'ailleurs que la Commission, obligée de revenir l'an prochain sur ce même terrain selon toute probabilité, aura l'occasion de déterminer la frontière de Kolashin et de la Tara, dans une saison propice; que d'ailleurs aucune des parties intéressées n'émet un vœu pour la délimitation immédiate de cette section; décide de clore ses travaux pour l'année courante, se donnant rendez-vous le 1er Mai prochain à Raguse.

La Commission exprime le désir que les Gouvernements limitrophes fassent procéder avant le mois de Mai prochain, si les circonstances les permettent, au relevé des zones qui restent encore à délimiter et dont on ne possède de cartes exactes. Si cette proposition est soumise par les Délégués directement intéressés à leurs Cabinets, il est à espérer qu'elle sera agréée, ce qui au printemps prochain permettra à la Commission de pousser ses travaux avec célérité.

La Commission, sur la proposition du Président, vote des remercîments et des éloges aux membres de la Sous-Commission Topographique, qui ont rempli avec autant de zèle que de capacité leurs difficiles fonctions. Parmi ces membres la Commission entend comprendre M. le Lieutenant Caillard, qui s'est associé à tous ces travaux et dont le nom ne figure pas dans la liste de la Sous-Commission Topographique, simplement parce qu'il n'était pas encore arrivé lors de sa formation.

Le Président exprime également le sentiment de tous ses collègues en remerciant, au nom de la Commission, les membres du Sécretariat, M. le Capitaine Testa et M. le Baron d'Estournelles de Constant.

Le Baron Kaulbars se fait l'interprète de tous ses collègues en exprimant, au nom de la Commission, à M. le Comte Colonna Ceccaldi, ses remercîments pour le zèle et l'impartialité que, pendant plus de quatre mois, il a mis à remplir ses fonctions de Président.

La Commission s'associe tout entière à ces paroles de M. le Commissaire de Russie.

Le Président est vivement touché de ce témoignage. S'il a pu s'acquitter de sa tâche de manière à le mériter, il en attribue la plus grande part aux sentiments qui n'ont cessé de régner parmi tous les membres de la Commission.

Le présent Protocole est lu et approuvé.

La séance est levée à 6 heures.

Fait à Podgorica, le 3 Septembre.

(Signé) TESTA.
LIPPICH.
COLONNA CECCALDI.
OTTOLENGHI.
M. T. SALE.
POPOVIC.
KAULBARS.
RIZA.

Annexe 1 au Protocole No. 25.

Réponse de la Délégation Ottomane à la Note présentée par la Mission du Monténégro à la Commission Européenne de Délimitation, dans la séance du 7 Septembre, 1879.

D'après MM. Popovic et Matanovic le Congrès de Berlin, dans le tracé de Dinosh à Goussigné, aurait eu en vue la séparation complète des deux éléments Albanais et Serbes.

La Délégation Ottomane apprécierait beaucoup cette façon de voir si, dans le cas présent, elle pouvait octroyer à l'Albanie les avantages qui découleraient pour elle de cette interprétation. A Dinosh il y a peu ou point de Slaves. Dans la Kraïna trois Baïraks sur quatre sont exclusivement mixte, mais ses habitants, quoique parlant les deux langues principales en usage dans ces parages, sont plutôt d'origine Albanaise, Musulmans et

Latins de religion. Plus loin, dans le district de Goussigné-Plava, on trouve le pays scindé en deux; une partie est de race Albanaise, l'autre est Slave d'origine ou de sang mêlé. Si l'on pouvait, ainsi que ces messieurs du Monténégro le réclament avec insistance, opérer la division des deux races, la chose serait aisée de ce côté, et avantageuse à la Turquie. Malheureusement telle n'a pas toujours été la pensée du Congrès.

A part l'insistance que nous remarquons, ces messieurs persistent dans leur système de confondre les Drekalovici avec le Kraïna, donnent les limites d'une tribu lorsqu'il y en a deux, et nous font connaître que les villages de Pikali, Prifti, Lovka, et Seliste, situés à la rive droite de la Cievna, appartiennent à la tribu Albanaise de Grudi. Cela serait d'une exactitude remarquable si, en même temps, la Mission Monténégrine admettait l'existence, ainsi que l'a fait la Commission, d'une Kraïna dévolue à la Turquie à titre de rétrocession, et si elle ne contestait pas qu'une grande partie au moins de ce pays est de race Albanaise, Skipe, comme les Chefs Montagnards l'ont déclaré avec fierté à la Commission.

Chefket Pacha est malheureusement mort depuis longtemps, mais il eût été bien étonné d'apprendre que l'adjonction du Mudirat de Medun de deux tribus différentes, implique la reconnaissance de l'unité et de l'indivisibilité de ces deux tribus. Demain il peut plaire au Gouvernement Impérial de faire administrer par un Mutessarif ou autre les Grudi, Hoti, Klémenti, &c.; s'ensuivrait-il que la personnalité de chacune de ces tribus disparaîtrait? Une telle thèse n'est pas soutenable.

MM. Popovic et Metanovic veulent bien nous apprendre que les habitants de Kuci n'avaient aucune idée de l'existence d'une Kucka-Kraïna, tandis que tous les témoignages ont prouvé le contraire, à tel point que la Commission a reconnu à l'unanimité (avec explications et réserves de la part de MM. les Délégués de la Russie et du Monténégro), l'existence de cette tribu, ou, pour être encore plus exact, des quatres Baïraks groupés sous ce nom.

La possession des pâturages communs entre les Drekalovici et la Kraïna serait un fait qui se produit souvent en Albanie, et qui ne prouverait ni l'indivisibilité ni l'unité des deux tribus. Tout près de Kraïna, et aux abords de la plaine même, il y a des propriétés et des pâturages qui se confondent entre les Grudi et les Hoti; il y a aussi, dit-on, des pâturages communs entre les Klémenti, les Grudi, et les Kraïna, et peut-être les Goussigné; cependant tous gardent leur particularisme. Que lors de leurs excursions MM. les Commissaires du Monténégro aient jugé impossible la division des Drekalovici et la Kraïna, c'est une opinion personnelle, que tout le monde ne partage pas. D'ailleurs, cette appréciation ne modifierait pas la décision de Berlin relativement à la Kraïna. On parle aussi de conflits, désordres, flots de sang, qui pourraient être répandus si l'on forçait la Kraïna à se séparer des Drekalovici.

A notre avis le contraire pourrait produire ces effets, et la quiétude actuelle de la Kraïna peut être mise sur le compte de la certitude qu'ont les habitants de continuer à faire partie de l'Albanie.

Puisque les Représentants du Monténégro sont entrés sur un terrain aussi délicat, qu'il nous soit permis de rappeler que Goussigné aussi menace de verser tout son sang plutôt que de changer de maître; la philanthropie de ces messieurs les induira-t-elle à abandonner cette portion du territoire de l'Albanie? espérons que oui.

Nous avons trop le sentiment des convenances, et du respect dû à un Prince Souverain pour douter de la véracité, et de la spontanéité des suppliques présentées à son Altesse, par lesquelles les Kuci de toute nuance demandent à vivre sous le régime paternel du Monténégro.

Des pays plus avancés ont vu surgir de l'urne du suffrage universel des plébiscites vraiment inattendus. Il ne serait pas étonnant que des fonctionnaires experts fassent aussi signer dans ces parages des pétitions en faveur de l'Administration qui régit actuellement la Kraïna. C'est pour échapper à un tel soupçon que nous avons, quant à nous, décidé de ne pas présenter à la Commission beaucoup de pétitions qui nous sont parvenues de tous côtés au profit de la Turquie; et, s'il s'agit que d'un vœu formulé par écrit, qu'on n'oublie pas que Goussigné, entre autres, est prêt à parler.

Nous concluons en demandant l'exécution, pure et simple, de l'Article XXVIII du Traité de Berlin, à moins que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan n'en décide autrement, d'accord avec les Puissances Européennes, et à la suite d'une entente, et d'un compromis avec la Principauté du Monténégro.

(Signé) RIZA.
DANISH.
BEDRI.

Annexe 2 au Protocole No. 26.

Note responsive de la Délégation Ottomane à l'Exposé presenté par M. le Colonel Kaulbars à la Commission de Délimitation dans la séance du 7 Septembre, 1879.

Dans son exposé d'hier, M. le Commissaire de Russie, à propos de la Kucka-Kraïna, entre dans des détails étymologiques dont la Délégation Ottomane n'a pas à se préoccuper. Il ne faudrait pas en induire cependant que nous admettons que la définition Slave du mot Kraïna implique la fusion des Kuci Drekalovici avec les Kuci-Kraïna. Il est possible au contraire que le territoire de ces derniers ait fait primitivement partie des terres des Grudi, et que plus tard le Gouvernement, auquel ils prêtaient assistance, leur ait reconnu une existence à part pour récompenser leurs vertus guerrières, en leur donnant l'appellation de Kraïna que leur reconnaissaient leurs adversaires Serbes. Et veuillez bien remarquer que nous n'affirmons pas; nous supposons simplement, comme le fait M. le Colonel Kaulbars dans son Mémoire.

De tout temps, et il n'y a pas longtemps encore, les deux tribus en question formaient deux cercles ou Nahici, placés sous la juridiction immédiate d'un Mudir. Il est aussi utile de rappeler qu'à différentes époques des dissensions sans fin et des luttes sanglantes séparaient ces deux tribus appartenant à deux races distinctes. En effet, tandis que chez les Drekalovici l'élément Slave ou Slavisé est d'une majorité imposante, le sang Albanais est prédominant chez les Kraïna.

La Commission se rappelle, pensons-nous, des dépositions d'un prêtre Orthodoxe des confins de la Kraïna, dont le témoignage avait été requis par MM. les Délégués du Monténégro.

Cet ecclésiastique, dans sa droiture, n'a pas hésité à designer les limites réelles de la Kraïna. Tous les Chefs et Notables interrogés sur le même sujet ont été dans leurs réponses d'une unanimité et d'une exactitude remarquable, ainsi que le constatait hier en pleine séance M. le Capitaine Sauerwald, qui, en sa qualité de membre de la Sous-Commission chargée des travaux topographiques, a été plus qu'à même de se rendre compte de la valeur des dépositions.

Il y a aussi une chose à observer, c'est que pas un des témoins des tribus Albanaises n'a eu même l'idée de donner à la Kraïna la mobilité des frontières, soutenue par MM. les Commissaires de Russie et du Monténégo, et que certains témoins présentés par l'autre partie intéressée, ont essayé de la soutenir sans convaincre personne, nous pensons.

M. le Colonel Kaulbars prétend que les Drekalovici et les Kraïna se sont toujours confondus; que leurs intérêts ont été de tout temps identiques, et que partout ils formaient une seule et même tribu.

Si ce qui a été dit plus haut ne paraît pas suffisant pour détruire une pareille assertion, nous ajouterions que les quatre Baïraks de la Kraïna étaient placés sous la haute surveillance d'un Buluk-Bashi, qui existe encore, et que les événements ont forcé à s'expatrier.

Le Baïraktar Stogan Ghili, qui s'est élevé avec véhémence contre la prétention de l'englobement de sa fraternité (nous nous servons d'une expression locale, "fratellanza") dans la famille Slave et dont les renseignements ont été aussi clairs que loyaux, a été presque bafoué par un des témoins Monténégrins lorsqu'il n'était pas là pour se défendre, et on a même contesté sa qualité de Chef. Or, à quelques jours de là le curé Catholique de la commune de Triebse, interrogé devant M. le Capitaine Sale, a reconnu l'honorabilité et la qualité de la personne précitée.

Pour la défense de la cause que nous avons en main, et au risque de déplaire, ce que nous regrettrions beaucoup, nous devons constater incidemment que les Délégués du Monténégro ont voulu démontrer Slaves dans la Kraïna de vrais enfants de l'Albanie en les confondant à dessein avec les Drekalovici et en niant l'existence d'une frontière définie de tout temps dans ce pays. Contrairement à ce qu'assure M. le Baron Kaulbars, la Turquie a toujours reconnu une séparation entre les Drekalovici et les Kraïna.

La Mission Ottomane a déjà eu l'honneur d'affirmer verbalement que la question du Mudirlik de Medun ne saurait être d'aucun poids dans l'argumentation Russo-Monténégrine, pas plus que pour les pâturages qui sont souvent communs en Albanie entre deux tribus différentes.

M. le Colonel Kaulbars constate que les pays des Kuci, qu'il confond en un seul, admettent actuellement la loi du Monténégro, et que les officiers et les hommes d'armes de la Kraïna, quoique exerçant leur autorité par mandat Princier, sont indigènes et nullement Monténégrins. Les Kraïna, ajoute-t-il, ne font aucune opposition à cet état de choses et ils désirent leur union aux Drekalovici, qu'ils regardent comme de leur propre famille.

L'opinion de la Délégation Ottomane est diamétralement opposée à cette conviction

de M. le Commissaire de Russie, malgré ce qu'en penseraient les Padre Secondiano et Ludovico, insurgés pour la circonstance.

Le premier de ces ecclésiastiques qui demeurent chez les Triebse n'a nullement nié cependant que ses ouailles fussent Catholiques et de race Albanaise. Il n'a pu ainsi s'empêcher d'avouer qu'au début de la guerre les montagnards de la Kraïna ont demandé aide et assistance à la garnison de Podgoritza. Cet appel n'ayant pas été entendue par Salim Pacha, Commandant de cette place, les Kraïna ont défendu tous seuls leurs foyers contre l'invasion. Ceux qui n'ont pu être soumis se sont expatriés et leurs maisons ont été livrées aux flammes: ceci est historique.

Séparer ces deux tribus par la force ferait verser des flots de sang; c'est toujours le père Secondiano qui parle. Si l'on voulait prêter l'oreille les échos de l'Albanie répéteraient pareil langage. Cependant on insiste pour que Goussigné se sacrifie. A-t-on tenu compte des sentiments des habitants de Podgoritza pour annexer cette ville au Monténégro. Demandez-leur les efforts faits par les autorités Turques pour les calmer et les amener à se soumettre. La Turquie a été loyale lorsqu'il s'est agi d'exécuter le Traité de Berlin, et malgré la cessation de l'autorité Ottomane dans le pays on réclame une consignation formelle, contrairement aux précédents internationaux. Pour ce qui est de la Kraïna, que le Monténégro s'exécute aussi, et que l'on ne vienne pas nous parler de sang.

MM. les Commissaires du Monténégro ont déclaré que Dinosh étant en ruine la Turquie pourrait en faire le sacrifice. Dinosh se relèvera bientôt de ses ruines qui, d'après ce qu'on nous assure, proviennent du fait des Monténégrins qui, profitant d'un armistice, auraient enlevé la toiture des maisons de cette localité, les intempéries aidant, tout s'est affondré.

Les limites entre les Drekalovici et la Kraïna n'ont jamais existé de fait, dit M. Kaulbars; cependant la Commission les a facilement constatées, et M. Kaulbars lui-même a déclaré que, quant à lui, il a reconnu une diversion de Baïraks et non des limites ethnographiques. Il ajoute que le tracé du Congrès dans la Kraïna est inexact, chose que les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans n'ont pas relevée.

Les Représentants de la Turquie à Berlin avaient des préoccupations d'un ordre supérieur qui ne leur laissaient pas la latitude de veiller aux détails. D'ailleurs, si la ligne-frontière proposée à Berlin eût été d'une exactitude mathématique, eût-on songé à recourir à l'expérience et aux lumières des Commissaires Européens, la plupart officiers d'Etat-Major ou de génie. Les erreurs du tracé de la Kucka-Kraïna ont été relevés et ses limites consciencieusement définies par une tendance chez un ou deux de porter ses confins au delà du Zem, avec une prévoyance digne d'être remarquée et qui empiète sur les Klémenti.

Nous terminons les considérations que M. le Colonel Kaulbars cherche à faire prévaloir aux yeux de la Commission et de l'Europe pour conserver la Kraïna au Monténégro, sans même faire mention d'une compensation pouvant avoir de l'importance pour la Principauté évidemment, mais le principal intéressé, la Turquie, ne saurait les admettre.

M. le Commissaire de Russie insiste sur l'importance qu'il y aurait à conserver au Monténégro la course du Zem pour lui assurer, pensons-nous, une double communication avec Goussigné. Cela ne saurait nous intéresser, d'ailleurs; à notre avis la route de la Morac suffit et au-delà aux besoins de la Principauté pour ses relations avec Goussigné.

(Signé) RIZA.
DANISH.
BEDRI.

No. 270.

Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 21.)

(No. 87.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, October* 11, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that, in accordance with the instructions conveyed in your despatch No. 74, Confidential, of the 1st October, I have forwarded to Her Majesty's Minister, for transmission to Major Trotter, a tracing from the map of the country round Kuraourgan, accompanied by brief explanatory remarks on the point at issue between the Russian Commissioner and myself.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. C. H. CLARKE.

No. 271.

Major Gordon to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 21.)

(No. 54.) *Constantinople, October* 13, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your Lordship's despatch No. 20 of the 2nd October, transmitting inclosure, as marked in the margin.*

The statement made by Baron Jomini to Mr. Plunkett, viz., "that the Russian topographers had been much hampered by various causes, more especially by the hostile treatment received from some of the inhabitants," appears to be erroneous, and without foundation.

At an official meeting held on the 11th instant, Colonel Philippoff declared that the topographers, when working for the Commission, had met with no obstruction or insult of any kind from the Turkish inhabitants with whom they were brought in contact; this declaration will appear in a Protocol which, when printed, will be forwarded to your Lordship.

Referring to my despatch No. 53 of the 6th October, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that Captain de Wolski, R.E., returned to Constantinople on the 7th October, and the Russian topographers on the 10th; the entire survey of the country through which the southern frontier of Eastern Roumelia passes is now complete, and every effort is being made to hasten the copying, for reproduction, of the different sheets of the maps.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. GORDON.

No. 272.

Mr. L. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 21.)

(No. 287.) *Belgrade, October* 14, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that Dr. Kirovitch, the newly-appointed Bulgarian Agent at this Court, was received by His Highness Prince Milan on the 8th instant, and, during the interview, presented an autograph letter from Prince Alexander.

Dr. Kirovitch was introduced with the same ceremony as Count Tornielli and M. Emile de Borchgrave, being given an escort and presented by the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The Turkish Minister accredited to this Court inquired of the Minister of Foreign Affairs whether the above-mentioned details were correct, and was told by his Excellency that he was in no way misinformed. M. Ristich, however, added that he had carefully guarded against applying the term "Diplomatic" to the new Agent.

I have thought it my duty to report these circumstances to your Lordship, as Sermed Effendi, the Turkish Minister at Belgrade, has thought the distinction made by his Excellency somewhat too shadowy when taken into consideration with the outward form of Dr. Kirovitch's reception, and has referred the matter to the Sublime Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LOUIS E. GOULD.

No. 273.

Mr. L. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 21.)

(No. 288.) *Belgrade, October* 15, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to M. Ristich's note on the Albanian question, a copy of which was inclosed in my despatch No. 280 of the 23rd ultimo, I have the honour to state, for your Lordship's information, that as, in dealing with the class of Albanians who could not be allowed to re-enter Servia, his Excellency urged, as one of the reasons, "that their lands had since been occupied by others;" and as this sentence might be thought infringing on the provisions of Article XXXIX of the Treaty of Berlin, I took the liberty of calling his Excellency's attention to the subject.

* Mr. Plunkett, No. 436.

I am happy to inform your Lordship that M. Ristich's reply was most satisfactory. He said that, although Servians had been allowed to occupy these lands as soon as they had been evacuated, they were warned that ulterior claims of proprietorship might be raised, which would have to be respected.

His Excellency said that, should such claims be brought forward, the only way to satisfy them would be to appoint a Turco-Servian Commission to inquire into them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LOUIS E. GOULD.

No. 274.

Consul-General Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 21, 9 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, October* 20, 1879, 5 P.M.

MONTENEGRINS report that they have surrounded Gussinje. They are sending further artillery ammunition and supplies.

Here money and ammunition are being privately collected, and a band of Mahommedans is being enrolled to go to rescue.

No. 275.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 21, 9 A.M.)

(No. 154. Secret and Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October* 20, 1879, 8·50 P.M.

THE same secret source mentioned in my despatch No. 506 tells me privately that the plan elaborated at Livadia was submitted, on Saturday last, to Committee of Generals at War Office here, and approved, with only three dissenting voices.

The plan is to suspend operations beyond the Caspian at present, in order to strengthen largely forces under General Tergukasoff, and give him an army sufficient for a war. This is the term used.

In the meanwhile troops sufficient for three [group omitted, ? army corps] are to be collected from Kazan, Saratof, Orenberg, &c., to advance from three points in Turkestan into Afghanistan, distribute arms to the natives, and try, with their help, to drive British back through Khyber and Bolan Passes.

Preparations to be completed, both in Caucasus and Turkestan, for putting plan into execution about February or March.

No. 276.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 21, 10·30 A.M.)

(No. 87.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, October* 20, 1879, 8·20 P.M.

ELECTIONS took place to-day. Considerable excitement among Greeks in this town, who protest against intimidation and ill-treatment of Greek electors by Bulgarians; and complain of police having been employed in supplying tickets of Bulgarian candidate, and generally of pressure and injustice on the part of the Bulgarian officials. The Jews were supplied by the Mayor with voting papers of the Bulgarian candidate.

The Turks have been threatened by Bulgarian Metropolitan with still worse treatment unless they vote for Kessiakoff, the Bulgarian.

A crowd of Greeks came to the Consulate this evening to represent their grievances and to implore the aid of England and the Great Powers who had created the province against Bulgarian oppression. I advised them to represent to the authorities, in an orderly and legal manner, the injustice of which they complained, the Statute providing for electoral irregularities.

In order to calm them I gave the assurance that Europe was watching over them, and they left for the French Consulate with loud cheers for England and Europe.

The Secretary-General was this afternoon mobbed at the house of the Greek Archbishop by the same crowd.
(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 277.

Mr. R. Thomson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 21.)

(No. 55.)
(Telegraphic.) *Tehran, October 21, 1879, 4·30 P.M.*

THE Viceroy having telegraphed on the 15th instant that it was reported from Herat that Eyub Khan was in frequent confidential communication with Persia, and asking for information, I answered on the 17th that the late Vizier of Herat was known to have been in correspondence with persons in Meshed, with the object of obtaining information of advance of the Russian army and the views of Russia and Persia in respect of our Treaty with Afghanistan, and that a special messenger had lately reached Meshed with letters from Eyub Khan, about which I would make further inquiry.

I this day telegraphed to his Excellency that the Meshed Agent believed that the letters in question were for the Prince Governor of Khorassan, and that he presumed, as they were said to have been dispatched from Herat on the arrival of a confidential messenger from Cabul, that they contained some communication which the Ameer had directed his brother to convey to the Persian Government. The Agent also telegraphed yesterday that during last ten days letters had twice reached Meshed from Eyub Khan.

The Prince Governor denied having received any such letters, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs this morning assured me most solemnly that there was no foundation for the reports that Eyub Khan was in confidential communication with the Persian Government or the local authorities. His Highness requested me to convey to Her Majesty's Government and to Government of Viceroy his positive assurance on honour that no communications whatever, direct or indirect, had passed between Persian Government and the Ameer or his brother since those referred to in my despatch No. 186 of the 6th August.

I also informed the Viceroy that it was reported in Meshed that the Ameer Yakoob Khan had ordered six regiments to be sent from Herat in the direction of Cabul, and had specially directed that their arms should be left at Herat, the men being sent unarmed on service.

No. 278.

Mr. Gosling to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 21.)

(Telegraphic.) *Buda-Pesth, October 21, 1879.*

YOUR Lordship's speech of the 17th has created most favourable and comforting impression here.

No. 279.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. White.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 21, 1879, 5·40 P.M.*

THE German Chargé d'Affaires tells me that Captain Eide, of the German Engineer Corps, has been appointed to be their Silistria Commissioner.

Inform Captain Sale.

No. 280.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 259.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 21, 1879, 5·45 P.M.*

YOU are authorized to protest against the hypothecation of customs to any new loan, on the ground that they are already pledged to bondholders, of whom many are English, for whom no provision has yet been made.

No. 281.

Baron von den Brincken to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 22.)

(Translation.)
German Embassy, October 21, 1879.

My Lord,

I DO myself the honour of informing your Excellency respectfully that on the German side Major Heyde, of the Staff of the Engineer Corps, has been nominated as member of the Technical Commission, which is to mark out on the spot the disputed boundary point of Bulgaria situated eastward of Silistria.

Major Heyde will set out upon his journey soon, in order to be present at the first sitting of the said Commission, appointed for the 27th of this month.

I have, &c.
(Signed) BRINCKEN.

No. 282.

Mr. Gosling to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 22.)

(Telegraphic.) *Buda-Pesth, October 21, 1879.*

TELEGRAM in the "Pester Lloyd" states:—

"Late outbreak at Nevesinge (Herzegovina), though quelled, passive resistance on the part of population noticeable. Beys again unable to collect rents; local authorities powerless, in consequence whereof Christians ordered to pay rents due; landlords afraid to show themselves, threats being made to shoot them. It is remarked that Christians are well supplied with arms and ammunition, pointing to aid from foreign Powers. Christians in frontier districts keep up communication with insurgents hidden in mountains."

Public opinion here credits Russia with feeding this movement. Might I be allowed to visit these districts on public service to report?

No. 283.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 22.)

(No. 703.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, October 21, 1879, 6·30 P.M.*

MONTENEGRIN Minister informs me that new Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs having stated to him that, if Prince of Montenegro absolutely rejected the proposal for exchange of territory, the Porte was prepared to hand over Gussinjé-Plava to Montenegro. [? His Highness] has telegraphed he has countermanded the advance of troops to take forcible possession of that district which was commenced when he received first answer of Porte, that the Porte must state categorically within what time it will give over the district, and that he refuses to entertain any proposal for an exchange, and insists upon execution of Treaty of Berlin.

No. 284.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 22, 11 A.M.)

(No. 88.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, October 21, 1879, 10 P.M.*

GOVERNOR-GENERAL returned to-day, wearing uniform of local militia, with badges of full General.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 285.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 22.)

(No. 73.) (Telegraphic.) *Berlin, October 22, 1879.*

COUNT STIRUM, Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, has brought me a message from Prince Bismarck, to the effect that he feels alarmed at reported intention of the Turkish Government to send troops to Eastern Roumelia.

Prince Bismarck is of opinion that such a measure, at this moment, might lead to the commencement of another war in the Balkan Peninsula.

No. 286.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 61.) (Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 22, 1879, 8·15 P.M.*

YOUR telegram No. 73.

No report of any such intention has reached us.

No. 287.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 534.) *Foreign Office, October 22, 1879.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to your telegram No. 73 of this day's date, informing me that Prince Bismarck feels alarmed at the reported intention of the Turkish Government to send troops to Eastern Roumelia, I have to state to your Excellency that no report of any such intention has reached Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 288.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 23, 8 A.M.)

(No. 704.) (Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, October 22, 1879, 7·45 P.M.*

TURKISH Minister for Foreign Affairs informs me that the Porte will take immediate measures to hand over Gussinje-Plava to Montenegro, and will begin with that part of the district inhabited by Christians, and thus prepare the way for the cession of part occupied by Mussulmans. He earnestly requests your Lordship to induce the Prince of Montenegro to have a little patience, and not to insist on the immediate surrender of district, which the Porte has every reason to hope it will be able to [? effect] without bloodshed, if sufficient time be given to it.

No. 289.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 23, 10 A.M.)

(No. 705.) (Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, October 22, 1879, 7·45 P.M.*

I HAVE used the strongest language to-day to the new Prime Minister. I have warned him that, unless the reforms promised to Her Majesty's Government be put into execution without delay, and Christians of Asia Minor receive full protection and their rights, Her Majesty's Government can no longer give further support to Turkey; that the result will be that the Sultan's Throne and Empire will be in immediate danger. He was profuse in his promises to follow my advice in everything.

Mahmoud Nedim Pasha has sent to beg me to allow one of my Dragomans to visit him, as he wishes to see me, and cannot do so unless this formality, which has been

observed by all the other Missions, some of my colleagues having even called upon him, has been gone through. I shall do so, as I think it of great importance to see him, and not to break with him altogether.

Midhat Pasha has sent in his resignation. Sultan informs me that he will not accept it, and that he is highly satisfied with the way in which he is governing Syria. I have telegraphed to him, through Her Majesty's Consul at Beyrout, not to persist in his resignation, and I have warned Saïd Pasha of the very bad effect that his removal from it at this moment would have on the population of the province and on public opinion in England.

No. 290.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Colonel Sibornc.

(No. 15.) (Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 23, 1879, 3 P.M.*

AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN Government propose creation of Inspectorate to enforce Regulations to be made under Article LV of Treaty of Berlin for navigation of Danube between Galatz and Iron Gates.

This Inspectorate would be composed of Delegates from the three Riverain States, Servia, Roumania, and Bulgaria, and be presided over by a Delegate from Austria-Hungary, who would represent European interests generally.

Please to report your views by telegraph on proposal as a permanent or temporary measure till April 1883.

No. 291.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1278.) *Foreign Office, October 23, 1879.*

Sir,

I REQUEST that your Excellency will have the goodness to convey to Mr. Malet my approval of his language to the Sultan, as reported in his Secret despatch No. 867 of the 6th instant, in reply to His Majesty's inquiries with regard to the political significance to be attached to the meetings which have recently taken place between Prince Bismarck and Count Andrassy and between M. Waddington and myself.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 292.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1279.) *Foreign Office, October 23, 1879.*

Sir,

I REQUEST that you will inform Mr. Malet that his observations to the Sultan respecting the financial future of the Empire, as reported in his despatch No. 858 of the 3rd instant, are approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 293.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1280.) *Foreign Office, October 23, 1879.*

Sir,

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Malet's despatch No. 860 of the 4th instant, and its inclosures, relative to the desire expressed on the part of Mussulmans living in the districts adjacent to Varna to emigrate from Bulgaria, in order to escape from the persecutions to which they are subjected.

In reply, I have to state to your Excellency that I consider the replies returned by

Mr. Malet to Vice-Consul Brophy's inquiries were judicious, and I approve the advice he gave to discourage the intending emigrants from carrying their project into execution.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 294.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1281.)
Foreign Office, October 23, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE to state to your Excellency that I approve the *note verbale* addressed by Mr. Malet to the Porte respecting Mr. St. John's position at Prisrend, of which a copy was inclosed with his despatch No. 859 of the 4th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 295.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Palgrave.

(No. 136.)
Foreign Office, October 23, 1879.

Sir,

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Minister at Constantinople, forwarding a translation of a petition which had been received at the British Vice-Consulate at Varna relative to the outrages which it is asserted have been perpetrated within a recent period upon Mahommedans in Bulgaria by their Christian neighbours.

I request that you will take steps to make a close investigation into the truth of the statements contained in this petition, and that you will furnish me, with as little delay as possible, with a full report upon the result of your inquiries.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 296.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Major-General Hamley.

(No. 66.)
Foreign Office, October 23, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 91 of the 11th instant announcing your return to England on the 8th instant, and reporting on the valuable assistance rendered to the Bulgarian Boundary Commission by Major Ardagh and Captain Jones while attached to your Staff.

In reply, I request that you will inform these officers that I have received this report with great satisfaction, and that it will give me much pleasure to call the special attention of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for War to the zeal and efficiency they have displayed in the execution of the work entrusted to them.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 297.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Major-General Hamley.

(No. 67.)
Foreign Office, October 23, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 91 of the 11th instant announcing your return to this country upon the completion of the operations of the International Commission, formed under Article XI of the Treaty of Berlin, for the delimitation of the frontiers of Bulgaria, and in so doing I gladly avail myself of the opportunity to convey to you the cordial thanks of Her Majesty's Government for the valuable services you have rendered to the Commission, and their high appreciation of the tact and judgment which have characterized your proceedings.

At the same time, I request that you will convey to the members of your Staff my acknowledgments of the zeal and efficiency with which they have severally discharged the duties entrusted to them.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 298.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Adams.

(No. 1270.)
Foreign Office, October 23, 1879.

Sir,

THE French Ambassador spoke to me on the 14th instant with respect to the Greek question, and said that that was the matter which the French Government had at present most nearly at heart.

I replied that Her Majesty's Government were very conscious of the importance of an early settlement to both the parties concerned, for, on the one side, the necessity of continued military precautions was producing most disastrous effects upon the finance of Turkey, while, on the other side, there was always a danger, if Turkey were pressed too hard, that she would seek the protection of Russia against the Greeks, offering, in return, to settle all questions arising between her own Slav and Greek subjects to the advantage of the former. I said, therefore, that I had very earnestly urged upon the Greek Chargé d'Affaires the importance to his country of a conciliatory bearing at this crisis.

His Excellency then asked me what importance Her Majesty's Government attached to the controversy about Janina. I said that I regarded the question of Janina taken in the abstract as one of secondary importance, but what I regarded as essential was that no force and no pressure amounting to compulsion should be exercised upon the Turks in respect to it, for though it was possible that, if ceded willingly, no great injury might result, I felt convinced that if it were ceded under pressure we should be confronted with the danger of an Albanian insurrection, and a civil war would be lighted up, with which there was no existing military force that was capable of coping. Our Representative at Constantinople could not, therefore, exercise any pressure upon Turkey in that respect.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY

No. 299.

Mr. Egerton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 23, 11 P.M.)

(No. 164.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October* 23, 1879, 8 P.M.

AUSTRIAN Government advise Prince of Montenegro to remain quiet and send no expedition against Gussinge.

They advise Porte to give up Gussinge in accordance with the Treaty.

Turkish Ambassador tells me that conflict he alluded to was not a military skirmish between Montenegrins and Albanians, but a raid of individuals, when the former shot one or two men and pillaged. Actual hostilities, according to his and Austrian information, have not broken out.

No. 300.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 24.)

(No. 17. Political.)
My Lord, *Prisrend, October* 2, 1879.

THIS morning I received an interesting visit from a member of the Albanian League, named Ali Abri, from Sipsa.

He is the Chief of an influential mountain tribe, in the vicinity of Jakova, and is said to have 5,000 armed men at his beck and call.

Last year, after the assassination of Mehemet Ali, the destruction of the Catholic church at Jakova, to be followed by a general massacre of the Christians, was serious

contemplated, and it was owing to Ali Abri's intervention that such a calamity was averted.

I have since made inquiries of Catholic monks as to the truth of Ali Abri's reputed protection to the Christians, and find such to be really the case.

Some time back, when it was rumoured that the Austrian troops were advancing towards Novi-Bazar, his tribe at once proposed to oppose them; but, at his suggestion, he with a few followers started to meet the Austrians, and, being satisfied that an invasion was not intended, returned to appease his people.

Ali Abri informed me that the persecutions now being perpetrated on the Christians of Jakova are due to the fanatical hatred which two Government officials there bear them; one being Kareman Bey, the Kaimakam, and the other Hassan Aga, an officer of zaptiehs, son to Sadik Aga, and states that both ought to be at once removed.

The last statement has not yet been confirmed, and may, after all, be only an intrigue.

I would ask that the utmost caution may be observed with regard to any information I may have to give respecting individuals; as without it, in this country, where the slightest provocation creates a blood-feud, my safety may be seriously compromised.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 301.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 24.)

(No. 18. Political.)
My Lord, *Prisrend, October* 2, 1879.

THE reports that reached me yesterday respecting the safety of the Consular Corps having been so very unsatisfactory, I determined to have an interview with Osman Bey, the Acting-Governor of Prisrend. After having stated what I had heard, I requested him to tell me frankly whether our presence was irritating the population, and whether, in the event of our being molested, he could guarantee our safety.

To my first question he replied that, though he had spies about, nothing had been reported to that effect; but, doubtless, in the bazaar our presence was a good deal discussed.

With regard to my second question he said a few troops still remained, and that in the event of an attack on the part of the population they would have to kill him before any harm could befall us. But what was not very reassuring was his admission that his own life stood in peril—a fact which I knew and alluded to in my despatch No. 7 of the 24th ultimo.

Reports I received this morning are more satisfactory, and I hope that in a few days all the dangerous characters with which the town is infested will betake themselves off; for I can assure your Lordship that this prolonged confinement is becoming unbearable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 302.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 24.)

(No. 19. Political.)
My Lord, *Prisrend, October* 3, 1879.

THE agitation which during the last fortnight has pervaded the public mind at Prisrend is now beginning to subside.

The Albanian League has not yet held its first sitting, and therefore we are still left in the dark as to the object of its meeting.

Various conjectures have been current on this point; the most prevalent being that of turning Albania into an autonomous province.

The postponement of the sittings is attributed to the non-arrival of some of the members; but I think it more probable that the authorities have considered it prudent to await the departure of all the dangerous characters assembled at Prisrend, who, armed

to the teeth, had come with the hope that disturbances would arise out of which some profit might be made.

The precautions which the Consular body were advised to adopt were entirely due to their presence, and the very threatening attitude which they had taken up.

I am glad to be able to report that many of these people, tired of waiting, and possessing no means of subsistence, took their departure yesterday, some will leave to-day, and the remainder, we hope, to-morrow.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 303.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 24.)

(No. 20. Political.)
My Lord, *Prisrend, October* 4, 1879.

THERE can be no doubt that my arrival, shortly followed by that of a Russian Consul, caused considerable sensation and suspicion not only at Prisrend, but also at all the adjacent towns, where the reason of our coming was fully believed to be a preconcerted understanding by which Albania was to be divided among the Powers represented by the Consuls at Prisrend.

The many visits, however, which I received from intelligent Turks, together with the conversations held with them, have, I believe, produced salutary effects, for these now appear to look upon my presence rather as a pledge of the traditional friendship of England than as a menace.

I must confess that the startling accounts of the state of the country I received from my Austrian colleague, as well as the threats on my life with which I was daily regaled, at first considerably bewildered me.

But the experience which I have since acquired now leads me to look upon the latter as coffee-shop bombast, intended to be once heard by some passing Christian, and then reported to me.

As the last accounts from Jakova, where the Christians are reopening their shops, are more satisfactory, I begin to entertain the belief that my presence has really been productive of good, and that the intelligent classes now perceive that, after all, a systematic persecution of the Christians may sooner or later lead them into trouble.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 304.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 24.)

(No. 22. Political.)
My Lord, *Prisrend, October* 6, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 17 of the 2nd instant, I have the honour to report that I have made further inquiries respecting Ali Abri, by whose intervention the Catholic church at Jakova was saved from pillage, and the Christian population from slaughter.

The correctness of the information I have received and reported to your Lordship on the above subject has been fully borne out by the testimony of the Christians of Jakova with whom I have spoken.

Ali Abri, who is the Chief of the most powerful of all the mountain tribes in that district, has always shown a kindly disposition towards the Christian population, and, moreover, promised me that his protection should continue, and that he would make it his duty to interfere whenever a case of persecution came under his notice.

I would therefore ask your Lordship whether it would not be advisable, for the future security of the Christian population of that locality, that this man should receive some mark of recognition for the great services he has rendered his fellow-subjects.

The Christians with whom I have spoken on the subject all agree that it would be most advisable; and therefore I venture to suggest that an order, which is what he most covets, should be obtained for him from the Sultan, and hopes held out of future favours, should he continue to deserve them.

Such a mark of distinction would not only raise him in the estimation of his own people, and increase his influence, but also act as an incentive to others.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST JOHN.

No. 305.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 24.)

(No. 23. Political.)
My Lord, *Prisrend, October 6, 1879.*

TO-DAY there came to me a Christian fugitive from Jakova.

He complained that a few months back the authorities, without the usual formalities required by law on such occasions, turned him and his family out of his own house to make room for some Turkish refugees from Servia, who, after having occupied the house some time, lost two horses.

A complaint having been made, the authorities decided that the owner of the house was responsible for the theft, and should be made to pay the value of the horses.

The man protested at such injustice, and being innocent refused to pay.

Upon this he was thrown into prison and kept in a cell with chained murderers; but on payment of £ T. 1 to Kareman Bey, the Kaïmakam (mentioned in my despatch No. 17 of the 2nd instant), he was removed to a debtors' prison.

After two months he was released, but again thrown into prison for no reason whatever, and set at liberty after a week's detention on payment of £ T. 2 to the Judge of Jakova. He then abandoned all his property and fled to Prisrend.

I took the opportunity to question him about the reputed good character of Ali Abri. He entirely confirmed the statements contained in my despatches No. 17 and No. 22, at the same time stigmatizing Hassan Aga, who Ali Abri said ought at once to be removed, as a cruel and fanatical persecutor of the Christians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 306.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 24.)

(No. 24. Political.)
My Lord, *Prisrend, October 7, 1879.*

TO-DAY I received a visit from two respectable Turkish merchants, natives of Jakova, who informed me that during the last fifteen years they had been carrying on a prosperous trade at Nisch; but that, since its annexation to Servia, life there for a Mussulman had become impossible, the result being that they, in company with hundreds of others, had to leave all they possessed and seek refuge on Turkish soil.

Some fifty Turks, they said, had been assassinated there, and property belonging to Turkish residents was being disposed of by forced sales at 99 per cent. below its real value.

The object of their visit was to request me to bring their case, together with that of hundreds of others, to the notice of Her Majesty's Government, in order that a representation may be made at Belgrade, so as to enable these people to return to Nisch, and there either to continue their business, or be allowed to dispose of their property at a more equitable price, without running any personal risk.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 307.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 24.)

(No. 122. Political.)
My Lord, *Scutari, October 10, 1879.*

THE movement against Goussinjé, shadowed by Prince Nicholas to me in the conversation reported in my Political despatch No. 117 of the 27th ultimo, appears to have already commenced, as I learn from several trustworthy Albanians that the Voïvoda Marco Milanoff has started from Podgoritza at the head of a column, with four pieces of artillery, and that a battery and a half have been sent viâ Danilograd and Piperi.

It is very likely that the Prince may have no other intention than to bring to bear in the proper quarters a certain amount of political pressure, but the danger of a conflict lies in the possibility that the wild and ignorant Goussiniotes may attempt to drive away the Montenegrins from their neighbourhood.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 308.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 24.)

(No. 123. Political.)
My Lord, *Scutari, October 12, 1879.*

ON several recent occasions the Pasha here has mentioned to my colleagues and me a new Civil and Criminal Code sent to him by the Porte to be enforced in this province, and a Mollah, with the title of "Procureur-Général," has arrived from Constantinople, to exercise certain powers under the new laws.

I have been unable to see this Code, but the commencement of its application in the Courts has caused the greatest dissatisfaction among the natives. Several meetings on the subject have been held in the mosques, and a deputation was sent to the Vali three days ago to inform him that, after due consideration, the new laws had been found unnecessary, especially as they appeared to have been framed with the main object of levying heavy fees, which would place legal remedies beyond the reach of any but the very rich, and that there was no need for the new functionary, the Procureur-Général.

Ali Haidar Pasha at first replied that he was here to enforce the orders of his superiors; but, observing the spirit of determination with which the deputation was imbued, he prudently dismissed it, with a promise to refer its representations to Constantinople.

Perhaps, if the Code in question is in any way connected with the reforms stipulated for in Article XXIII of the Treaty of Berlin, it will now be seen how necessary it is that the people who are to benefit by them should be first consulted, in some form or another, as to the details of the laws which are to render them contented.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 309.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 24.)

(No. 124. Political.)
My Lord, *Scutari, October 12, 1879.*

A SHORT time ago I had the honour to report to your Lordship and to Sir Henry Layard that the troops in North Albania were about to be left without bread and rice,—almost the only food now supplied to them; and it appears that, through the advice of Her Majesty's Ambassador, the Porte exerted itself and found the means of paying the contractors about 7,000*l.*, and that, with promises of further payments, it has induced them to continue for a little longer their deliveries of provisions.

But one evil overcome or delayed, in the present lamentable state of the Ottoman Administration, only brings into prominence half-a-dozen others equally threatening.

The zaptieh, or policemen, here, are at last finding it impossible to continue any more serving without pay, and they contemplate, in a day or two, retiring to their homes. This

would have already occurred had the Vali not begged them to delay the step until he could telegraph the urgency of the position to the Porte.

A favourable issue, and the transmission of money for the zaptieh, will hardly mend matters if the police officers and minor civil functionaries are not also paid at the same time.

Perhaps less irritation would be felt by these classes if the superior officers also remained unpaid; but the scanty revenues collected by the local Treasury are immediately applied in paying their salaries.

I must, however, do the new Vali, Ali Haidar Pasha, the justice to say that he has endeavoured, although without success, to discover some means of meeting the most pressing claims. He informs me his only hope now lies in Constantinople, and the knowledge of the difficulties accumulated there fills him with despair.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 310.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 24.)

(No. 254.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, October* 17, 1879.

FROM Thursday the 9th instant, during six entire days, the discussion of the Government Bill for amending the Constitution has continued, without intermission, till last night, when the Government, seeing that it had from fifty to fifty-four decided opponents arrayed against its projected law, obtained an interruption of this debate for the purpose of seeking to secure some kind of compromise with the different hostile fractions, as it is evident that two-thirds of votes in support of the Ministerial measure cannot be secured.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 311.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 24.)

(No. 256.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, October* 18, 1879.

OWING to the impossibility of passing their projected Bill into law, and their unwillingness to expose the country to the chances of a fresh dissolution and renewed agitation, the Ministry of M. Bratiano have allowed their original Bill to be amended into one even less liberal on some points, and have submitted this remodelled project for amending Article VII of the Constitution for discussion to the Chamber of Deputies this afternoon.

I have the honour to submit, for your Lordship's information, a copy of this Bill in its last form in which it is likely to be adopted as a portion of the Roumanian Constitution for the present.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 311.

Draft Bill for Revision of Article 7 of the Constitution.

(Translation.)

IN room of Article 7, which is revised, the following shall be placed:—

Article 7. The difference of religious creeds and confessions does not constitute in Roumania an obstacle to the acquirement of civil and political rights and their exercise.

Section 1. Every foreigner, without distinction of creed, whether enjoying any foreign protection or not, can acquire naturalization under the following conditions:—

(*a.*) By addressing to the Government an application for naturalization, in which must be declared the capital he possesses, his profession, and his wish to establish his domicile in Roumania.

(*b.*) By residing in the country for ten years after having made this application, and by proving by his acts that he is useful to the country.

Section 2. The following may be exempted from this delay of residence (ten years):—

(*a.*) All who shall have introduced into the country industries, useful inventions, or distinguished talents, or who shall have founded large commercial or industrial establishments.

(*b.*) All who having been born and educated in Roumania of parents domiciled in the country, and have, neither in their own case, nor in that of their parents, at any time been in the enjoyment of any foreign protection.

(*c.*) All who have served with the colours during the war of independence, and these can be naturalized collectively on the proposition of the Government by a single law without further formalities.

Section 3. Naturalization can only be granted by a law and individually.

Section 4. A special law will determine the manner in which foreigners can establish their domicile on Roumanian territory.

Section 5. Roumanians, and naturalized Roumanian citizens, can alone acquire rural estates in Roumania.

Rights acquired up to the present time are respected.

The International Conventions existing at present remain in force, with all their clauses, and for the term mentioned therein.

No. 312.

Consul-General Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 24, 11 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, October* 23, 1879, 6·30 P.M.

FOLLOWING telegraphed to Sir H. Layard:—

"Your telegram of yesterday received.

"A band of about forty Mahommedans of Scutari of the better class left last night for Gussinge, and others are preparing to leave in a day or two.

"I have informed Pasha of the suspension of preparations by Montenegro, and he has promised to do all in his power to prevent Porte's engagements being compromised.

"I wish, however, to say, confidentially, that, from a local point of view, engagement to surrender said district appears very hazardous, for the Turkish authorities have, even up to quite recently, so well preached resistance that their lessons can hardly be annulled, and the sceptical may suspect an attempt to gain time.

"The bands now hurrying to the rescue being under no responsible control, may commence an attack at any moment.

"(Sent to Secretary of State.)"

No. 313.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Gosling.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 24, 1879.

WITH reference to your telegram of the 21st instant, better not at present visit disturbed districts.

No. 314.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 24, *noon.*)

(No. 16.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, October* 24, 1879, 7 A.M.

BILL amending Constitution adopted by Senate yesterday afternoon; 60 members present; 56 for, 1 against, and 3 absentees.

No. 315.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 24, 5·15 P.M.)

(No. 708 P.)
(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, October 24, 1879, 4 P.M.

FOLLOWING from Mr. Eldridge, dated yesterday :—

"Midhat informed me that he had received a satisfactory telegram from the Sultan refusing his resignation. Affairs of the Hauran serious."

No. 316.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 24, 5·30 P.M.)

(No. 706.)
(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, October 24, 1879, 4·8 P.M.

FOLLOWING from Consul at Damascus, dated 21st :—

"A disturbance in the Hauran between Mussulman and Druse villagers has resulted in authorities advocating cause of Mussulmans, and in massing all the available military and civil forces of province in the Hauran. Matters look grave, and collision imminent. Great military preparations."

Mr. Eldridge telegraphs yesterday that the affair of the Hauran looks serious. I have telegraphed through him to Midhat my earnest hope that he will settle affair without bloodshed, and have urged Porte to instruct him in same sense.

No. 317.

Colonel Siborne to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 24, 10·50 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.)

Galatz, October 24, 1879, 2·30 P.M.

IN reply to your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, I think Her Majesty's Government might accept Austrian proposal as a temporary measure, provided the other Riverain States agree to it [? if approved], namely, Germany, Russia, Turkey, as Suzerain of Bulgaria.

No. 318.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 24, *midnight.*)

(No. 708.)
(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, October 24, 1879, 6 P.M.

PORTE has informed Montenegrin Minister that orders have been sent to Moukhtar Pasha to take immediate measures to hand over Gussinge to Montenegro. He is to go there himself if necessary, and to send answer as to steps he has taken within three days.

No. 319.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 25.)

(No. 69. Political.)

Canea, Crete, October 11, 1879.

My Lord,

SINCE I last had the honour of addressing your Lordship on the state of affairs in Crete, now nearly a month ago, things have been going on in an orderly and satisfactory manner.

Firstly, with regard to judicial matters, the presence of Mr. Scalzounis, the new President of the Court of Appeal, is infusing fresh life into the local courts of law. Photiades Pasha, finding that, as President of the Appellate Court, Mr. Scalzounis' authority over the inferior Tribunals was too limited to allow of an effectual supervision, has temporarily appointed him Procureur as well. In that capacity he has seen enough of the working of the judicial system in Crete to stagger him, and he is taking stringent

measures to introduce a purer practice. The greatest barrier to improvement is the power intrusted to the people to elect their own Judges, who are found in most cases to be ignorant of the first principles of law. They besides arrogate to themselves an authority which is fraught with the worst consequences. During the last two months the elective Judges of the Courts of First Instance, both in Candia and Rethymo, have threatened to resign their posts because the Presidents appointed by the Vali have not been men to their liking. In the latter instance his Excellency thought himself obliged to yield to the pretensions of the two Mussulman Judges, in order to prevent the course of justice of the whole sandjak from being paralyzed, for so long as a single member of a Tribunal abstains from attendance no sentence emanating therefrom can be valid. Mr. Scalzounis hopes to induce the next General Assembly to modify the so-called privilege of the people to elect their magistrates by giving the power of veto to a Select Commission chosen by the Assembly, whose duty it should be to eliminate those Judges who were obviously incompetent, their places being supplied by means of new elections.

Secondly, with regard to the gendarmerie, Colonel Alix, who commands them, has already effected considerable improvements. In the western cazas of Kissamos, Selino, Canea and Apokorona a strict discipline is now enforced, drill is daily gone through, and the men have been shifted from one caza to another, the evil of men serving in their own district, in the midst of their own relations, being thus obviated. While in the above cazas the police are in excellent order, regularly paid, and clad in their new uniforms; in the other two-thirds of the island they are two or three months in arrears, without uniform, and undisciplined. It is only the want of means which has delayed the organization of the entire corps, but that want is likely to become more serious as time goes on, there being little hope of anything more being attempted, while there is even the fear lest the police already organized may become discontented when their pay is not regularly forthcoming.

The utmost order prevails throughout the island, even in those parts where the gendarmerie has been neglected. In a journey I made last week to Apokorano and Sphakia I found the spirit of agitation allayed, and if the people are not enthusiastic about the new order of things they are far more contented with the Government than I have ever known them to be, and I speak from an experience of nine years.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 320.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 25.)

(No. 65. Political.)

Salonica, October 15, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copies of a despatch and its two inclosures, which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople relative to the united action of the Bulgarian and Turkish communities of Kiuprulu in reference to the maladministration of that district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 320.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Salonica, October 15, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Excellency translated copies of a Memorial, with one Annex, addressed to the Governor-General of Salonica by the inhabitants of the district of Kiuprulu, in reference to the maladministration of their Kaïmakam, Sub-Governor Murad Effendi.

The Memorial has been presented to the Governor-General, and copies of it to me, by a deputation composed of four Mahommedan and four Christian (Bulgarian) notables, who were elected and sent to Salonica for the purpose by both communities of that district. The eight members of the deputation having called upon me collectively, and expressed the hope that I would employ my good offices in furtherance of the object of their mission, I explained to them that as the Governor-General had promised them that the Kaïmakam, Murad Effendi, would be summoned to Salonica for an inquiry into his conduct, I could

not interfere officially in the matter; but that I would make inquiries, and, if necessary, support their case, and represent the circumstances to your Excellency. After a few days the deputation renewed their visit, and complained to me of the dilatory action of the Governor-General in dealing with their grievances, and of efforts made by influential parties in favour of the Kaïmakam.

They also hinted that if I were not willing or prepared to assist them, they would proceed to Constantinople and appeal to the Sultan and the foreign Embassies. I dismissed them with the assurance that I would exert my influence with a view to their obtaining proper assistance and redress on the spot—an assurance I gave the more readily, as I had heard in the interval, from reliable sources, that the movement against the Kaïmakam was not fictitious or one-sided, but the genuine result of universal dissatisfaction caused by mis-government.

I subsequently had a private interview with the Governor-General, and strongly impressed upon him the importance of not delaying to take action in the matter, the more so as I heard that the deputation had been instructed by the communities of Kiuprulu to call upon my foreign colleagues and ask for their interference. I also pointed out to his Excellency the probability of certain parties taking up the circumstances for political purposes if he delayed giving satisfaction. The Pasha explained that the Kaïmakam had been summoned to Salonica; that the case would be examined by the Grand Council immediately after the Baïram festival; and that an Acting Governor had been sent to Kiuprulu.

I now learn that the Grand Council, after a somewhat partial inquiry into the allegations embodied in the Memorial, has decided to transfer the Kaïmakam, Murad Effendi, to another district, and appoint in his stead the present Kaïmakam of Vodina; and I am told that the news of this arrangement has given great satisfaction to the community of Kiuprulu.

Kiuprulu (Velessa) is the principal Bulgarian centre in Macedonia. It is situated about half-way between Salonica and Mitrovitza, with which places it is connected by railway communication—the town of Kiuprulu forming one of the principal entrepôts of the produce of the surrounding districts. Its town population may be estimated at 20,000 souls (12,000 Christians, chiefly Bulgarians, and 8,000 Mahommedans of Bulgarian and Albanian origin). Its rural population exceeds 50,000 souls, distributed in 95 Bulgarian and 27 Mahommedan villages. The district yields a revenue to the Porte of over 45,000*l.*, chiefly derived from the tithes on agricultural produce, of which wheat, of a hard quality, is the principal crop, and not considered inferior to the Russian. The urban population is very industrious, the Bulgarians being mostly engaged in the manufacture of wine and raki, and the Mahommedans in that of leather and goats'-hair cloth; the former is exported to the Hungarian markets, and the latter much used by the natives for sacking, horse, and cattle cloths, &c. Both communities have become more prosperous and thriving since the establishment of railway communication through their district, which has been the cause of bringing more land under cultivation.

The Bulgarian element is very strong in the district, and although it has always been more or less under the spiritual and political influence of the Bulgarian Exarchate, it remained quiet during the late war, and in general took no part in insurrectionary movements or disturbances. Upon the approach of Russian troops to Kustendil, some Bulgarian schoolmasters and Panslave agitators of the place tried to promote disturbances in the district, but finding the people averse to their designs they fled to that and other towns in Bulgaria, where they are now employed, I hear, in the local Administration. The submissive and quiet tendency of the Christians of Kiuprulu is confirmed by the late united and evidently earnest action of both communities of that district in the interest of order and good government. This circumstance, which is regarded as a curious phenomenon by some of my foreign colleagues, has been induced, I believe, by the late events and changes in European Turkey which have opened the eyes of the people to the calamitous results of race-hatred, as exemplified so abundantly in Bulgaria and Roumelia, and to the vital importance of both nationalities acting in common together for the public weal.

This is the impression I have formed from the conversations I have had with the Bulgarian and Turkish members of the late deputation, which is strengthened by what I have heard of other districts, that of Stroumnitza in particular, where the Christian and Mahommedan communities, evidently influenced by the progress of events, are acting together in matters affecting their local interests.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 320.

Memorial of Turkish and Bulgarian Communities of Kiuprulu to the Pasha of Salonica.

(Traduction.)

CHAQUE fois qu'on se plaignait auprès du Caïmacam de notre Caza de Kiuprulu pour des excès commis dans notre ville, excès provenant de sa mauvaise conduite et de sa rancune incompréhensible envers la population, il répondait que ce n'est pas vrai ou que le mal était commis par les Bulgares, lesquels accusaient les autres pour susciter une révolution; de cette manière il laissait aller librement les coupables sans les punir, de sorte que les brigands se sont tellement encouragé que notre Caza est devenu le foyer des brigands lesquels commettaient et commettent encore des assassinats, deshonorent les gens et s'emparent de leurs biens, excès qui ne se sont commis dans aucun des autres cazas.

La population étant dérangée par ces méfaits eut recours à votre Excellence, qui nous envoya Nouri Effendi pour s'enquérir de la situation.

Pendant cinq jours Nouri Effendi ne s'occupa de rien, mais le cinqième jour il forma une Commission composée de quatre personnes, laquelle ne fit que constater le brigandage de Emin Aga, nommé Buluk Bachi par le Caïmacam.

Les habitants du Caza qui avaient souffert beaucoup du Caïmacam ayant prié Nouri Effendi d'entendre et examiner leur plainte, il répondit que Samedi il s'enquérirait de leurs affaires, tandis que la veille il partit et se rendit à Salonique. Ayant prévenu votre Excellence que le dit Effendi laissa les affaires en suspens sur son ordre, nous nous sommes rendus à Salonique.

Tous les méfaits ayant été détaillés dans notre annexe, nous croyons inutile de les répéter ici; toutefois nous ne pouvons pas nous empêcher de raconter le passage qui suit:—

Dans le mois d'Avril passé le Commandant militaire d'Ustrumdjà ayant prévu que des comités (probablement de bandes des brigands) passeraient par Demir Capou, il en prévint le Gouverneur du vilayet, lequel en donna avis au Caïmacam de Tickfect, pour qu'il prît ses mesures, et ce dernier le communiqua au Caïmacam de Kiuprulu. Ce Caïmacam devant tenir secret et ne point découvrir une affaire si délicate, tout en prenant secrètement les mesures nécessaires, ce soir-là il fit venir quelques membres du Medjliss Idaré, exagéra l'affaire, et alla lui-même frapper à chaque poste en disant: "Pour l'amour de Dieu, levez-vous, ne dormez pas ce soir; les brigands vont violer notre caza," et en faisant des lamentations, de sorte que toutes les veuves, les femmes ayant leurs maris au service militaire, et les enfants, ont été effrayés et leurs lamentations mit en émoi toute la population.

Le lendemain il fit lever tout le monde de ses boutiques et distribua des armes; il causa un tapage de manière que personne ne savait que faire.

Il faut prendre en considération que dans notre ville il y a un bon nombre de Mouhadjirs, des jeunes gens qui ne réfléchissent pas beaucoup et que par la négligence du Caïmacam on tire souvent des coups de feu dans la nuit et que si, Dieu nous préserve, cette nuit-là on aurait tiré un coup, il est évident que c'est par la mauvaise administration du Caïmacam qu'un grand désordre et un grand malheur serait arrivé, en supposant que les brigands ou insurgés violent notre ville.

Ainsi nous prions vivement votre Excellence au nom du peuple de vouloir bien faire venir ici le Caïmacam pour nous juger avec lui, afin qu'il soit procédé légalement contre lui pour les faits exposés dans la présente requête et dans son annexe.

Les représentants du Caza de Kiuprulu,

(L.S.) HALIL SIDKI.
ABDOULLAH HUSSEIN.
IBRAHIM EDHEM.
DJAFER SADIK.
(Signé) HADJI PANO CHRISTOV.
DIMCO PIRASTEHA.
YORGHI NOVOSELES.
DIMCO PODOROF.

Le $\frac{19}{31}$ *Août*, 1879.

Annex to preceding Memorial.

Ayant porté des plaintes contre le Caïmacam de notre district, homme incapable et de mauvaise conduite, qui commet des abus à dessein, votre Excellence envoya le sieur

Nouri Effendi à Kiuprulu avec mission de faire une enquête à ce sujet, mais le susnommé Nouri Effendi étant rentré à Salonique sans accomplir sa mission, nous exposons à votre Excellence les faits suivants :—

Malgré les plaintes que les intéressés ont présenté au Caïmacam contre les nommés Mousli-bin Yacoub de Papolzista, et ses compagnons ; contre les villageois de Dobrovino, contre Issa, Ahmed, Hadji Mehmed, Redjeb Tchaoush ; contre les Mouhadjirs ; contre cinq individus de Sizitcha, du district de Perlepé ; contre Ibrahim de Sizitcha, Bekir Bego, Hamid, Salih et ses compagnons ; contre Zecco Tchaoush et Hassan Zaptieh, lesquels individus ont tué les nommés Alexis Vangheli de Debrenova, Dimitri et Vassiliko de Débrenova, Traïko du même village, une femme et deux hommes ; Petro et Andou de Vindjan ; Christo Handji de Babouna et le fils nommé Angheli ; ont rançonné des habitants du village Nedjilova, les villageois de Tchesnova, et le prêtre de ce village ; ont forcé le chef de prêtre de Vetriska à leur fournir du pain et de l'argent ; ont battu le prêtre de Hadjova qui devint malade, garda le lit pendant quatre mois et fut enfin contraint à quitter ce village ; ont violé la jeune fille Mitro Mitoch le jour même qu'elle allait se marier ; ont enlevé le bois de la maison du prêtre de Hadjova en disant qu'ils en avaient besoin, et rançonné aussi les habitants de Bogomil et ceux de Papravista et de Besserissa ; ont aussi violé deux filles Azara de Nabedo et un jeune Chrétien, et se sont emparé des dots des jeunes filles susdites et des sommes d'argent qu'ils ont pillé de plusieurs villageois du dit village, ainsi que du village de Bogomil ; ont enlevé l'enfant d'un individu de Kriva qu'on a pu à peine délivrer moyennant £ T. 40 ; ont volé deux mulets et un groupe de 10,000 piastres dans le chemin de Palanza à Kiuprulu ; ont volé plusieurs chevaux dont le nombre augmenterait sans doute à 2,000 ; ont enlevé à un Grec 4,000 piastres après qu'ils l'ont battu ; ont enlevé encore 5,000 piastres à ce dernier parce qu'il a porté des plaintes contre eux ; le Caïmacam ne donna jamais suite à ces plaintes ; il répondait aux uns : "Trouvez-moi les assassins, je les punirai ;" et aux autres il leur disait de s'en aller en Bulgarie ou en Serbie s'ils ne pouvaient pas supporter ces supplices. Si par hasard on saisissait un malfaiteur et un méfait quelconque était prouvé en justice, le Caïmacam mettait tout de suite le coupable en liberté et ne l'arrêtait point, malgré les demandes réitérées de la part des intéressés.

Le Caïmacam ne donna non plus suites aux plaintes portées pour le vol et la profanation commise dans les églises de "Pacha Kioy," à une heure de distance de la ville, et "Assoli Spassi," sise au quartier Pur Tchuruk ; il dit au prêtre de cette dernière église que c'était les Bulgares qui ont volé tous les objets réclamés, dans le but de faire susciter des révolutions.

Un mois après le Caïmacam fit venir le dit prêtre et lui dit que d'après un télégramme qu'il reçut d'Uskup, des objets de piété et quelques voleurs avaient été saisis. Ce prêtre se rendit le même jour à Uskup où l'autorité lui répondit qu'il y avait déjà dix jours qu'elle avait télégraphié cette nouvelle au Caïmacam, mais que celui-ci n'ayant rien répondu, les voleurs ont été envoyés à Drama. Alors le prêtre se fit donner une lettre pour le Mutessarif de Drama et y envoya un homme exprès pour réclamer les objets volés de son église, mais ce Mutessarif ne fit rien ; il envoya les voleurs et les objets à Kiuprulu pour que l'affaire y fût instruite. A l'arrivée des voleurs à Kiuprulu l'autorité fit venir le gardien de l'église et lui demanda s'il les connaissait ; il répondit qu'il pourrait bien reconnaître deux individus qui, tenant le couteau à la main, étaient resté près de lui pour lui imposer le silence. On lui fit voir alors deux des brigands pour lesquels il dit que l'un était celui qui était resté auprès de lui, que quant à l'autre il ne le connaissait pas, mais que probablement il était un de ceux qui étaient restés dehors. La nuit même du jour où l'instruction de l'affaire eut lieu, le dit brigand à été relâché et le lendemain on a dit qu'il s'était échappé. Le Caïmacam, dans le but soi-disant d'améliorer la situation de notre caza, fit venir d'Ochri, lieu de sa naissance, le nommé Emin Aga et le nommé Buluk Bashi. Nous croyons superflu de dénoter ici les excès commis par cet Aga, attendu que sa qualité de brigand a été déjà reconnue et prouvée par le préposé, qui fit des recherches à ce sujet.

Un des Notables de Kiuprulu, le nommé Hamid Aga, ordonna à un zaptié de lui apporter du village de Debrenova cinquante charges de charbon. Les villageois n'osant se refuser à l'ordre du dit Aga lui envoyèrent trente-cinq charges, mais le zaptié retourna en disant qu'il fallait encore vingt charges pour le Caïmacam, et les pauvres villageois ont été contraints de fournir encore vingt charges de charbon.

A la suite des plaintes que nous avons porté à votre Excellence, elle a bien voulu écrire au Caïmacam pour lui demander des explications sur les vols commis dans les églises ci-dessus indiquées, mais comme il appert des archives de l'autorité, le Caïmacam n'a rien répondu.

Tous ces faits prouvent la mauvaise conduite du Caïmacam et justifient les assertions

des habitants. Aussi, le brigandage ayant été encouragé par la mauvaise conduite du Caïmacam susénoncé, ainsi qu'il est dit dans notre requête, nous requérons qu'il soit jugé.

Les représentants des habitants du Caza de Kiuprulu,

(L.S.) HALIL SIDKI.
ABDULLAH HUSSEIN.
IBRAHIM EDHEM.
DJAFER SADIK.
(Signé) HADJI PANO CHRISTOV.
DIMCO PIRASTCHA.
YORGHI NOVOSELES.
DIMCO PODOROF.

Le $\frac{13}{25}$ *Août*, 1879.

No. 321.

Admiral Pothuau to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 25.)

M. le Marquis, *Londres, le* 21 *Octobre*, 1879.

JE suis chargé par mon Gouvernement de faire savoir à votre Excellence, qu'en conséquence de l'entente établie entre les différents Cabinets pour l'envoi à Silistrie d'une Commission Technique, chargée de déterminer s'il est possible de construire un pont à l'est de cette ville, ailleurs qu'à l'endroit indiqué par la Commission Militaire de Délimitation, le Gouvernement de la République a désigné comme Délégué Français M. Lalanne, Inspecteur-Général et Directeur de l'Ecole des Ponts et Chaussées.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) A. POTHUAU.

No. 322.

Count Schouvaloff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 25.)

Mon cher Marquis, *Londres, le* 24 *Octobre*, 1879.

EN date du 27 approchant je m'adresse à vous par écrit afin d'éviter toute perte de temps.

M. de Giers me télégraphie ce qui suit :—

"Les Puissances ont admis un Délégué officieux Roumain à la Commission Technique de Silistrie. Il serait juste selon nous d'y admettre au même titre un Délégué Bulgare.

"Nous espérons que Lord Salisbury partagera cet avis, et donnera à son Commissaire des ordres en conséquence."

Vous seriez bien aimable, cher Marquis, de me faire savoir en temps et lieu ce que vous aurez décidé.

La Commission se réunit dans deux jours.

Mille amitiés,

(Signé) SCHOUVALOFF.

No. 323.

Sir L. Simmons to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received October* 25.)

My Lord, *War Office, October* 24, 1879.

IN compliance with the request contained in your letter of the 17th instant, forwarding a copy of a despatch from Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke, I have the honour to submit the observations which follow :—

Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke states that, if the Russian Government will accept the view I took in my letter of the 10th September, that the starting point of the Tripartite Commission should be the point on the parallel of latitude west of Karaourgan, where it crosses the line agreed to by the Russian and Turkish Commissioners, a great step forward will have been made in the negotiations, but adds that his Russian colleague will not accept this point of intersection.

He gives the ground upon which the Russian Commissioner bases his refusal, viz., that the frontier has been determined, as witness the signed maps, as far as the parallel of Karaourgan, where the participation of Great Britain commences. Russia and Turkey have determined a point on the parallel, in the regulation of the frontier, above which Great Britain has no voice. By "above" I understand north. I am of opinion that this view of the case, as taken by the Russian Commissioner, is perfectly correct, and cannot be disputed, and that the work of the Tripartite Commission commences on the parallel of latitude from which it takes a departure towards the south and east, in the direction of Medjingert. There is as much reason in Great Britain objecting to the Dual Commission extending their operations below, *i.e.*, to the south of the parallel of Karaourgan, as there is to Russia objecting to the Tripartite Commission commencing above, *i.e.*, to the north of that parallel.

The word "west" can have but one meaning. It has neither northing nor southing in it, and, as happily the position of the parallel of latitude seems to have been agreed upon, the dispute, so far as I can understand it, is simply whether this point is more or less distant from the village on that parallel.

The best solution of the question seems to be to ask the Russian Government to indicate on a map the exact point on the parallel which they consider ought to be the starting point of the Tripartite Commission, disclaiming any intention on the part of the British Government to interfere to the north of that parallel.

As the line from the north has apparently been traced by the Dual Commission in a rough way, it should, I think, be pointed out to the Russian Government that in fixing this point attention should be given to the written project of frontier agreed to on the 17th April last.

The words of this written description are: "La frontière suit . . . . et par la ligne de partage des eaux et des collines qui se dirigent vers le sud, aboutit au point, indiqué sur la carte, à l'ouest de Karaourgan, en laissant Bardouz et Yenikeuy à la Russie." From the insertion of the words "indiqué sur la carte" in the project it is evident that the two documents, the map and project, must be taken as one.

With regard to Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke's observation on my recommendation, that when this starting point has been decided the Commission should verify the map on the ground before proceeding further with the work of delimitation, I would remark that, if it be thought that by so doing offence might be given, as calling in question the accuracy of the maps, or if for any other reason it is considered not desirable formally to verify the maps at this stage of the proceedings, I am of opinion that the other Commissioners should go over the ground, otherwise they will be at a great disadvantage as compared with the Russians in determining at Constantinople the "tentative frontier," including the important point near Medjingert.

The advisability of his so doing is enforced by his reference to the "intérêts économiques" of Karaourgan, which, from what I believe to be the case with respect to them, would never have been introduced, or at any rate pressed, if the Commissioner had visited the spot, and had ocular evidence of their triviality.

I am, &c.
(Signed) J. L. A. SIMMONS.

No. 324.

Major-General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 94.)
My Lord, *Athenæum Club, Pall Mall, London, October 25, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to submit the following observations respecting Mr. Plunkett's despatch No. 502 inclosed in your despatch No. 65:—

Baron Jomini is therein represented, in speaking of the concession to Turkey of a military route through Bulgaria, to have expressed himself in a way which might be taken to imply that the Bulgarian Boundary Commission had made the consent of Bulgaria necessary to the use of the privilege by Turkey.

The Commission did not, of course, assume the power of hampering with conditions the expressed will of the Congress. Considering it to be its duty to complete the business entrusted to it, it endeavoured to provide for the necessity which obviously exists, that certain formalities should be used before marching the troops of one Power through the territory of another. It accordingly suggested that these formalities should be settled by an understanding between the two Powers immediately concerned. It had never occurred

to the Commission as possible that Bulgaria could oppose (as Baron Jomini, with seeming approval, says she will) the expressed will of the Congress to which she owes her present position. The precedent set by Russia herself in Article X of the Treaty of San Stefano, which recognizes and provides for the necessity before-mentioned, was, therefore, followed, in full confidence that the intention of the Congress would thereby most directly take effect.

The record of the proceedings of the Commission in the matter will be found in Protocol 35.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

No. 325.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25, 8 A.M.)

(No. 709.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, October 24, 1879, 7·30 P.M.*

TURKISH and Greek Plenipotentiaries held meeting to-day.

Former presented a long memorandum, stating grounds upon which they considered line [? of the valleys] of the Kalamos and Peneus suggested by Berlin Protocol unacceptable, but did not propose an alternative line. Greek Plenipotentiaries then presented a memorandum in which they proposed a line in conformity with the Protocol. They are to meet again on Wednesday next.

No. 326.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25, 3·46 P.M.)

(No. 710.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, October 25, 1879, 11·40 A.M.*

GREEK Plenipotentiaries have informed me that line proposed by them yesterday begins between Malathria and Spits on Ægean Sea, follows crest of mountains to Crania, goes from thence to Polizzani, and again follows crest of Supoti Mountains, reaches the Ionian Sea between village of that name and Biserna.

No. 327.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 263.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 25, 1879, 4 P.M.*

YOURS No. 705.

Your language as to reforms is approved by Her Majesty's Government.

No. 328.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.**

(No. 264.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 25, 1879, 5 P.M.*

ARAB-TABIA. Russians propose that Bulgaria should be admitted to the Commission on the same footing as Roumania. This seems fair. Have the Government to which you are accredited any objection?

* A similar telegram was sent to Mr. Egerton.

No. 329.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1291.) *Foreign Office, October 25, 1879.*

Sir,

THE Turkish Ambassador called upon me this afternoon to acquaint me with the change which had taken place in the administration at Constantinople.

I expressed to his Excellency my regret at these very frequent changes of Government, which appeared to me to be fatal to the adoption of energetic measures of reform.

With respect to the individuals who composed the new Administration, I preferred, I said, to reserve my opinion, as I had at present had only telegraphic communications from Sir Henry Layard upon the subject; at the same time, I did not conceal from his Excellency the misgiving with which I had heard of some of the names that were included in the list.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 330.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1295.) *Foreign Office, October 25, 1879.*

Sir,

THE Russian Government have proposed that Bulgaria shall be permitted to name a Representative, who shall be placed on the same footing as the Roumanian Delegate, on the Technical Commission which is about to meet at Silistria for the settlement of certain disputed questions in connection with the Dobrudscha frontier, and, as this suggestion appears to Her Majesty's Government to be a fair one, I have to request your Excellency to ascertain and to inform me whether the Porte has any objection to offer to its adoption.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 331.

Mr. Egerton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 26.)

(No. 167.) *Vienna, October 25, 1879.*

(Telegraphic.)

AUSTRIAN Minister for Foreign Affairs, though he sees no reason for Bulgarian attending Silistrian Bridge Commission, told Russian Ambassador he would not oppose his so doing, if Commission wished to consult him, in the same way as Roumanian.

No. 332.

Consul-General Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 26.)

Scutari, October 25, 1879.

(Telegraphic.)

MR. ST. JOHN has left Prisrend for Constantinople.

No. 333.

Major Gordon to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 26.)

Pera, October 25, 1879.

(Telegraphic.)

FINAL Act of Delimitation of Eastern Roumelia has been signed. I start for Cyprus viâ Alexandria on 27th. Captain de Wolski will leave for England when three remaining [? sheets] of maps are printed; probably the 31st.

No. 334.

Consul-General Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 26, 10 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, October 25, 1879.*

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, Porte is labouring under some misapprehension in believing that any territory worth mentioning occupied by Christians remains to be surrendered near Gussinje. Such part annexed itself to Montenegro more than three years ago.

It will not be advisable that I should bring forward such plans to Prince Nicholas as proof of the Porte's good intentions, and in fact, unless Turkish Government proposes to effect surrender by a display of force, I believe that it would be safer for me to avoid having the appearance of endorsing promises predestined to fail.

I await your Lordship's further instructions before proceeding to Montenegro.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 335.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 26, 7 P.M.)

(No. 86.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, October 26, 1879.*

THE Russian Ambassador has asked the Italian Government to agree to the admission of a Bulgarian Representative to the Commission respecting Arab-Tabia on the ground of the presence of a Roumanian. Count Maffei replied that the Italian Government could not consent to this unless it was accepted by the other Powers.

No. 336.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 27.)

(No. 247.)
My Lord, *Athens, October 18, 1879.*

M. DELYANNI has mentioned to me that dissatisfaction had been expressed by the Ottoman Government that the Greek declaration made at the Conference of the 5th instant had been previously communicated by the Greek Government to the Great Powers and not to the Porte.

He assured me, however, that no such communication had been made by this Government, although he understood that the declaration had been communicated to M. Fournier, who had sent it to M. Waddington, and that the latter had communicated it to the Powers who signed the Treaty of Berlin, all of whom, with the exception of Great Britain, had approved it.

Her Majesty's Government, he said, had given no answer, but had applied for information on the subject to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 337.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 27.)

(No. 512.)
My Lord, *Berlin, October 22, 1879.*

PRINCE BISMARCK, who is at Varzin, has sent me, through Count Limburg Stirum, a message for your Lordship to the following effect:—

Prince Bismarck feels alarmed at the reported intention of the Turkish Government to send troops to Eastern Roumelia, and is of opinion that such a measure, at the present juncture, might lead to the commencement of another war in the Balkan peninsula.

Baron von Brincken, his Excellency added, had been instructed to make a similar communication to your Lordship.

I told Count Limburg Stirum that the report was now to me, and asked whether it

was derived from any really trustworthy source, but his Excellency was not in a position to tell me, and could only say that he understood it to come from Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 338.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October 27.*)

(No. 518. Confidential.) *Berlin, October 25, 1879.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to Sir John Walsham's despatch No. 479 of the 3rd instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy, which has been given to me confidentially, of the Convention recently concluded between the Roumanian Minister of Finance and the Representatives of the German Company for the purchase of the railways in the Principality.

From what I have heard, there would seem to be a good chance of the Roumanian Government being able to obtain in the Chambers the requisite majority in favour of the Constitution.

In virtue of this contract the shares of the Company are to be exchanged against Roumanian State obligations, amounting to 237,500,000 fr., and bearing interest at 6 per cent., the punctual payment of capital and interest being guaranteed by a mortgage on the railways themselves and on the revenue of the tobacco monopoly.

Should an absolute majority of the shares not have been exchanged by the 1st March, 1880, the present Convention is to be considered as null and void.

If, however, the exchange of the majority of the shares against the obligations shall have been effected on or before the date in question, the management and working of the railways will be transferred from Berlin to Bucharest.

The Roumanian Government further undertake not to alienate any of the lines during a period of forty-four years.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 339.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October 27.*)

(No. 17.) *Bucharest, October 26, 1879.*

(Telegraphic.)

PRINCE'S Message declares Chambers having terminated Constitutional revision satisfactorily; they are to resume now ordinary legislative labours. Law on admission of non-Christians to citizenship promulgated as substitute for previous Article of Constitution. Under this new law naturalization *en bloc* of 888 Jews having served in army adopted in Senate yesterday by 33 votes against 3. Further proceedings this week, as numerous applications presented by Jews for naturalization are pending.

No. 340.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October 27.*)

(No. 711.) *Therapia, October 26, 1879.*

(Telegraphic.)

SULTAN invited me to dinner yesterday to meet Mahmoud Nedim Pasha, who called upon me this morning. I had a conversation of nearly four hours with him, during which I sought to impress upon him the extreme danger in which the Throne of the Sultan, and his Empire, were placed by the obstinate persistence of the Porte in not putting the promised reforms into loyal execution and affording proper protection to the Christians. I told him his presence in the Ministry rendered the danger still more grave; and I informed him that as, in consequence of promises made to me by the Sultan to put those reforms into execution at once, and to appoint Baker Pasha to high command in Armenia, the fleet had not gone to Besika Bay in the spring: now that those promises

had not been fulfilled, it would shortly appear there. He entreated me to prevent this, as it was impossible to say what would be the effect upon the Porte. He gave me the most solemn assurances that he would use all the influence he possesses over the Sultan, and in Council, to carry out the measures that I require. He requested me to prepare a list of those which I think most urgent, and I see him again on Wednesday, when he is to tell me which, in his opinion, are practicable, and which are not. He gave me the impression of being sincere, and of really feeling the critical position in which the Empire is placed, and think, by working on his fears and his patriotism, I may obtain something which may satisfy Her Majesty's Government.

Admiral Hornby has informed me that he has received orders to go to Vourla or Besika, and that he will be ready to leave Malta on the 5th November. I would suggest that he should go first to Vourla, and communicate with me before coming to Besika.

No. 341.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October 27, 5 P.M.*)

(No. 712.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, October 27, 1879, 12·30 P.M.*

FOLLOWING from Mr. Henderson, dated yesterday:—

"I have much satisfaction in informing your Excellency that Beshk and all the other Chiefs have now given in their submission to Saïd Pasha, and the Zeitoun troubles may now be considered at an end, provided Porte accepts at once Saïd's proposal of an amnesty.

"Saïd Pasha and Lieutenant Cherniside request me to telegraph to you to strongly support Saïd's demand, who is anxiously waiting for a reply from Porte.

"I am doing all I can to support Saïd's proposal."

No. 342.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Adams.

(No. 181.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 27, 1879, 7 P.M.*

AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN Government propose creation of Inspectorate to enforce Regulations to be made under Article LV of Treaty of Berlin for navigation of Danube between Galatz and Iron Gates. This Inspectorate would be composed of Delegates from the three riverain States, Servia, Roumania, and Bulgaria, and be presided over by a Delegate from Austria-Hungary, who would represent European interests generally.

Ask French Government whether they will assent to this proposal as a temporary measure to last till the expiry of the present mandate of the European Commission in 1883, provided the other Governments interested agree, and report their reply by telegraph.

No. 343.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Adams.

(No. 182.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 27, 1879, 7·40 P.M.*

I HAVE informed French Ambassador—

[1. That we agree to Bulgaria having the same position before the Technical Commission as Roumania.

2. That we agree to the three months' delay at Searcies.]

3. That we shall be happy to support France and Turkey in urging on Roumania claims of Holy Places to their property confiscated by Couza.

(Similar telegram sent to Sir A. H. Layard, omitting part in brackets.)

No. 344.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Colonel Siborne.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 27, 1879, 6 P.M.*

YOUR telegram of the 24th is not clear. You speak of Germany, Russia, and Turkey as Suzerain of Bulgaria, as being rivernin States; in what sense are Germany and Russia so styled, so far as question affects river between Galatz and Iron Gates?

No. 345.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Adams.

(No. 1286.) *Foreign Office, October 27, 1879.*

Sir,

I HAVE to state to you that I have informed the French Ambassador that Her Majesty's Government agree to Bulgaria having the same position as Roumania before the Technical Commission at Silistria on the Arab-Tabia question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 346.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Adams.

(No. 1287.) *Foreign Office, October 27, 1879.*

Sir,

I HAVE informed the French Ambassador that Her Majesty's Government will be happy to support the Governments of France and Turkey in urging on that of Roumania the claims of the Holy Places to the property which was taken from them and confiscated by Prince Couza.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 347.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Count Schouvaloff.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Foreign Office, October 27, 1879.*

WITH reference to the communication which you were good enough to make to me on the 24th instant, I have the honour to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government have no objection to Bulgaria being represented in the new Commission (called "Technical") which is to meet at Silistria this day "officieusement et à titre de renseignement."

I have, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 348.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 28.)

(No. 883.) *Therapia, October 16, 1879.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I communicated to Safvet Pasha your Lordship's telegram No. 253 of the 13th instant, and that I learn that the Sublime Porte has already instructed its Commissioner not to object in the event of Roumania wishing to be represented on the Silistrian Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 349.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 28.)

(No. 885.) *Therapia, October 17, 1879.*

My Lord,

YOUR Lordship will have received from Consul-General Blunt a copy of his despatch No. 105 of the 15th instant, containing a memorial addressed to the Governor-General of Salonica by the inhabitants of Kupruli, complaining of the maladministration of their district. I have directed Sir Alfred Sandison to communicate to Safvet Pasha the contents of this despatch relating to the misconduct of Murad Effendi, the Kaimakam of Kupruli, and to read to him the inclosure containing the account of that official's misdeeds. I have desired him to express to his Highness my extreme surprise that this man, after an inquiry which has proved that he is guilty, should, instead of being punished as he deserves, be transferred to another government, and to say that his Highness can judge of the impression which will be made upon public opinion in England should this despatch be published in a Blue Book.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 350.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 28.)

(No. 886.) *Therapia, October 18, 1879.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 734 of the 17th August last, I have the honour to inclose a copy of the reply I have received from the Porte to my representation respecting the operation of the law passed by the Cretan Assembly relative to old standing debts. I have communicated copy of this note to Mr. Consul Sandwith.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 350.

Note Verbale.

Sublime Porte, le 11 Octobre, 1879.

PAR sa note en date du 17 Août, l'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté Britannique a entretenu la Sublime Porte des plaintes de quelques sujets Anglais résidant dans l'Ile de Crête au sujet du Règlement voté par l'Assemblée des Députés Crétois pour décharger les débiteurs nécessiteux d'une partie de leurs obligations envers leurs créanciers, Règlement qui constituerait un empiétement sur le pouvoir judiciaire.

La mesure prise par l'Assemblée Crétoise a été motivée par des considérations d'intérêt général tirées des circonstances malheureuses qui ont profondément atteint la fortune publique dans l'Ile de Crète. Elle a pour but de sauvegarder non-seulement les intérêts des débiteurs malheureux, mais encore ceux de leurs créanciers eux-mêmes qui peuvent ainsi espérer recouvrer la plus grande partie de leur créance. Il appartenait au pouvoir législatif seul de décréter une pareille mesure, et dans un passé encore récent on pourrait citer des exemples décisifs de mesures législatives prises par les Grands Etats de l'Europe dans le même sens et dans le même but à la suite de désastres publics. Le Ministère Impérial croit devoir au surplus faire remarquer à l'Ambassadeur Britannique que les intérêts Anglais véritablement atteints par cette mesure n'ont qu'une minime importance à moins qu'ils ne se chargent de faire valoir en leur nom des créances qui appartiennent en réalité à des indigènes, ce qui serait absolument irrégulier.

No. 351.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 28.)

(No. 888.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October* 20, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I have communicated to the Porte Consul St. John's despatches Nos. 8, 9, and 11 to your Lordship of the 25th and 27th ultimo, copies of which he has forwarded to me relative to the state of affairs at Presrend, and the proceedings of the Albanian League.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 352.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 28.)

(No. 894.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October* 20, 1879.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 695 of the 17th instant, I have the honour to inclose copy of the memorandum given to me by Captain Sale respecting the arrangement which, in his opinion, might be come to for territorial exchanges between the Turks and Montenegrins, in order to settle the Gussinjé-Plava question, without running the risk of a renewal of hostilities and further bloodshed. He informs me that the Turkish Commissioner for the delimitation of the Montenegrin frontier quite agrees with him in his views.

I shall communicate his memorandum to the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, and urge that measures be taken without delay to occupy Gussinjé-Plava, as he recommends, in order to convince the Montenegrins that the Porte is ready to fulfil the engagements it has entered into by the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 352.

Memorandum by Captain Sale.

ARTICLE XXVIII of the Treaty of Berlin provides that the frontier between Montenegro and Turkey shall pass between the Kuci Drekolonce and the Kucka Kraina, leaving the Kucka Kraina, as also the tribes of Hoti, Grudi, and Clementi to Turkey, but giving the Valley of Gussinjé-Plava to Montenegro.

The Commission have defined the limits of the Kucka Kraina in accordance with the text of the Treaty, but find that it will be highly undesirable to demarcate the line thus defined, because the Kucka Kraina and Kuci Drekolonce both belong to the same tribe of Kuci; their lands, pasturage, and families being almost inextricably mixed up together.

The greater portion of the Kucka Kraina is, in fact, essentially Montenegrin, but the Treaty distinctly states that the Kucka Kraina is to belong to Turkey. Under these circumstances, Lord Salisbury has instructed me that it would be the most satisfactory arrangement for the Commission to record its vote in favour of an exchange of territory, giving Kucka Kraina to Montenegro, and compensating Turkey by that part of the Valley of Gussinjé-Plava which is inhabited by Mussulmans.

The Commission have virtually done this.

But I gather from M. Radowitz, the Montenegrin Envoy to the Sublime Porte, that the Prince of Montenegro considers that the Valley of Gussinjé-Plava so far exceeds the Kucka Kraina in value that the proposition already made by the Turks to exchange these two districts cannot be entertained, and that it is not deemed desirable to divide the valley, giving part to Montenegro. The Kucka Kraina is undoubtedly a very sterile, valueless district, but it extends so close to Podgoritza that there are hills in it which completely dominate and command that town, within easy artillery range.

This, and the fact that the great majority of the people now in the district are virtually Slavs, give to this territory a value for the Montenegrins which it otherwise would not possess.

However, the country owned by the Clementi extends very much further to the north than appears from the Austrian chart (Staff map).

The Commission have not as yet been able to define the limits between the Clementi and the Gussinjé, not having had access to the latter district; but the informations taken have tended to show that the country of the Clementi extends so far north as in a measure to isolate Gussinjé from Montenegro proper. The Montenegrins have, I believe, hoped that the Commission might be induced to modify the frontier laid down by the text of the Treaty, making it more favourable for Montenegro, or that subsequent events might enable them to retain the Kucka Kraina without giving compensation.

If, however, they realize that they will have definitively to abandon the Kucka Kraina if they wish to occupy Gussinjé, it is probable that the idea of the exchange may be more favourably received.

Until we know the actual state of things in the Gussinjé-Plava district, by actual inquiry on the spot, the Commission can make no definite proposal as to exchange, not having the data for any such proposition.

As long as the Porte takes no steps towards handing over Gussinjé-Plava, the Montenegrins will have grounds for holding back from offers of exchange, with a view to making a better bargain, but if the Porte could be induced to occupy the district with a military force, not only would the Commission be able next season to make a definite proposition as regards the boundary, but the Montenegrins would probably be more disposed to effect the exchange; provided always that they are clearly given to understand that if they do not concur in the exchange they will have to render back to the Turks the whole of the Kucka Kraina as defined by the Commission.

(Signed) M. T. SALE, *Commissioner.*

October 14, 1879.

No. 353.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 28.)

(No. 896.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October* 20, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of four despatches from Mr. Consul Brophy on the subject of recent outrages committed by Bulgarians on Mahommedans in various parts of the district of Bourgas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 353.

Consul Brophy to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Bourgas, September* 30, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that I have received detailed statements in writing from seven Mussulman villages in the district of Messevrias relative to the spoliation and outrages they have suffered at the hands of the Bulgarians.

The inclosed tabular statement will show that more than 300 head of cattle and horses and 600 head of sheep have been carried off, besides over 100*l.* in money, all within the last five weeks. Most of the money appears to have been extorted by persons calling themselves truly or falsely zaptiehs and employés of the Achialo Canton, and who either threatened persecution or promised protection.

Mehemed Oglou, of Ghehuk, was met by a band of armed Bulgarians, who first tortured and then killed him.

Bulgarians of Sondjoulou, headed by Condou Oglou, fired on and wounded Mehemed Oglou and Ahmet Oglou.

The cattle carried off from Kuvanlik were taken to the Bulgarian village of Eskebek, where they are now. A serjeant of militia was one of the leaders of the band.

The village of Giaffer has been twice plundered; on the second occasion the Bulgar Bashi-Bazouks were led by their police sergeants stationed at the villages of Ak-Déré and Tahakeui. From this village shepherds were carried off, and released after being tortured. Men ploughing in the field had their oxen carried off, and they themselves beaten. In the statement given by this village 12 Bulgarians from Sondjoulou, 9 from Eskebek,

and 2 from Altchak-Déré are mentioned by name as having been Chiefs of the plundering bands.

Denizler.—The Bulgarians who carried off the cattle were led by a sergeant of militia, and the beasts driven to Eskebek.

I have only given your Excellency a brief résumé of these outrages, as the originals comprise the names of the individuals who have been robbed.

With the exception of Ghebesh all these papers have been given in duplicate to the Prefect of Bourgas, who immediately sent out a Bulgarian to inquire into the circumstances. I saw the man to-day at the konak, and he reported that everything was quiet for to-day.

I cannot blame the Prefect, who does all he can with such defective means as are at his disposal, but I venture again to say that unless some guilty Bulgarians are tried and most severely punished the Turkish Balkan will not be safe from attempts on their honour, life, and property, and if the Turks are driven by desperation to revolt, I am persuaded that, however provided they may be with arms, neither the militia nor the Bulgarians would be able to quell the insurrection.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BROPHY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 353.

List of Cattle, Horses, Sheep, &c., carried off by Bulgars, within the last five weeks, from the undermentioned Turkish villages in the District of Messevrias.

Village.	Cows and Oxen.	Horses.	Sheep.	Buffaloes.	Money.
					Piastres.
Denikeui	36	7	..	13	1,080
Armoutlar	27	..	3	15	6,260
Ghebesh	12	..	90	5	700
Kuvanlik	10	13	197	..	1,720
Giaffer	73	36	177	..	1,000
Altchak-Déré (Turks of)	2	..	15	..	580
Denizler	36	18	150	..	1,586
Total	215	74	682	33	13,526

Inclosure 3 in No. 353.

Consul Brophy to Sir A. H. Layard.

Bourgas, October 4, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that a Turk of about 65 years of age called upon me this morning and related the following circumstances:—

He, Suleiman Aga, of Evouneshkeui (a village formerly comprised in the Caza of Bourgas, but now belonging to the Vilayet of Adrianople), returned viâ Yamboli with his family, a wife and three sons aged respectively about 20, 14, and 10 years, in the hope of coming back safely to his village.

The authorities of Yamboli gave him a cart and a letter ordering every village to send him on to the next on the line of travel, and for some time he was very well treated, but when he came to the village of Djumaali the inhabitants said that they were not of the Yamboli district, and the Turk must pay for his waggon.

After sitting down for some hours on a threshing-floor, where nobody offered him anything to eat (the omission to offer food being a serious violation of the Eastern, or at least the Mussulman laws of hospitality), Suleiman Aga made a bargain for a waggoner to carry his goods, and a Bulgarian Bashi-Bazouk to guarantee him from all dangers. The money required by these two individuals was paid beforehand.

At the distance of about a mile from the village of Djumaali the waggon of Suleiman was caught up by seven Bulgarians, one on horseback, the others on foot, and all armed. The Bulgarians beat the whole family, striking them with sticks and with heavy knives. The woman's head was cut open in two places; the old man was severely beaten; the child of 10 was beaten so that he could not walk for some days, and I have to-day taken measures for sending to the hospital the eldest son, whose body shows a mass of extravasated blood, due to the beatings he received.

Men, women, and children were repeatedly forced to lie down in the road in order that the Bulgarians might cut their throats. All their valuable property, including a horse, was carried off.

The waggoner and Bulgarian escort sat down on the side of the road whilst their friends of the same village plundered the returning emigrants.

As this is a case in which there can be no doubt concerning the guilty parties, I have urged upon the Prefect the necessity of acting energetically.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BROPHY.

Inclosure 4 in No. 353.

Consul Brophy to Sir A. H. Layard.

Bourgas, October , 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to correct a slight misstatement, and to supply some omissions in my recent despatches.

I had been misinformed in reporting that Choban Hassan was the first to fire at Captain Naboukoff. The truth is, that while Naboukoff was beating the son of a certain Pehlvan Aga, Choban Aga came from his house and exclaimed, "What are you beating the lad for? If you want me, here I am." Upon this Naboukoff fired at him, and the fire was returned. Naboukoff then sent to the neighbouring Bulgar villages, and collected not 200 but 500 Bashi-Bazouks.

When this village was sacked by the militia two Turks were killed, seventeen unmarried girls were outraged, and hardly one unmarried woman escaped the same fate.

At the village of Denizler two women were beaten to death with the butts of rifles, one of them dying within the hour, the other on the following day.

The Turks of Hediaklar have left their homes and property, and with their women and children have taken to the mountain to escape the outrages of the Bulgarians.

Early yesterday morning heavy rifle firing, continuing for two hours, was heard from the Turkish village of Kiziljik, about 5 miles from the town of Aidos, and later on a similar fusilade was audible from the direction of Haram-Déré.

As yet there is no reliable information to be obtained as to the cause of the firing. Within the last few days the buildings on a farm belonging to Soufr Pasha have been burnt by the Bulgars.

Returning refugees on their way to Bourgas have been twice robbed within a few miles of Bourgas.

Mussulman refugees have returned to their villages only to find that the Bulgars who have seized their houses refuse to give them up.

In the town of Aidos no Turkish child can walk in the streets without being beaten by the Christians.

According to trustworthy intelligence I to-day received, it is to be apprehended that the Turks of the Balkan on the Bulgarian frontier, goaded by the constant robbery and outrages of which they are the daily victims, may break out into insurrection. As they could furnish about 6,000 men, and would fight with all the energy lent by suffering, despair, and revenge, it would be hard to say what would be the upshot of such a rising.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BROPHY.

Inclosure 5 in No. 353.

Consul Brophy to Sir A. H. Layard.

Bourgas, October 11, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report the following occurrences at the Mussulman village of Kizildjik in the canton, and about 5 miles distant from the Aidos:—

At grey dawn of the 6th instant the village watchman perceived that Kizildjik was surrounded on all four sides by armed men, and, thinking the village in danger from Bulgarian Bashi-Bazouks, fired his gun in the air to give alarm, calling out, "Neighbours, the village is attacked!" A double cross fire of rifle-balls was shortly afterwards poured

into the village, where the mosque and many other buildings (including a house and granary belonging to my brother and myself) were riddled with balls.

As it grew lighter the panic-struck villagers were able to perceive that their assailants were about eighty militia and forty Bulgarian Bashi-Bazouks. Deli Mustapha, an old man upwards of 70 and of weak intellect, attempted in his terror to run out of the village, but was immediately shot (in the left leg), and as he fell the Bashi-Bazouks rushed upon him, beating him on the head and body, "just," said eye-witnesses to me, "as you kill a wounded fox."

After about two hours of this one-sided fusillade the villagers who had been constantly and in spite of the fire imploring the soldiers to come into the village and say what they wanted, succeeded in inducing them to enter. The commanding officer then said, "You have a stranger amongst you; give him up." We replied, "There he stands; take him if you want him; but what did you attack our village for?" Then the Bulgarians said to the soldiers, "Throw down such and such a one, and tell him to say where his rifle has been hidden." Upon this the soldiers knocked about with the stocks of their rifles the said Turk, and then stripping him thrashed him with whips.

Eight men, whose bruises and cuts I have seen, were thus treated, and the result was the discovery of seven guns and pistols: three of them tower muskets of 1830, such as were given during the war to the Mushtafiz or Landsturm, and the rest old flint weapons.

The "stranger" who stopped that night was Khalib, the son of Hussein, who had left his village, Bonrourdjuk, when it was sacked by Russian troops and Bulgarian Bashi-Bazouks (as reported in my despatch of December 1878), and is now living with his family at Tchimali, near Kizildjik. He had come unarmed, of course, as no Mussulman dare carry a weapon, to beg a bushel or two of seed corn from his neighbours, and it appears that two Bulgars of Kinpruli, meeting him on the road, went to Aidos and reported that a companion of Choban Hassan had gone to Kizildjik, upon which the officer commanding the militia determined to attack that village, and took with him forty armed Bulgarians from Kinpruli.

Khalil and ten of the Kizildjik Turks were then sent to Aidos, whence, after remaining twenty-four hours in prison, they were sent to Bourgas. On the 9th instant, fifty hours having then elapsed since their arrest, and no accusation having been brought against them, I went to the Prefecture to inquire into the case, in which I took a particular interest, as the men are all tenants of mine, and personally known to me for the last ten years. After some questions put to those prisoners, the Prefect and his private council were of opinion that the men were perfectly innocent, and that the affair was "all a mistake." I then inquired whether they could not, pending the arrival of the charge made against them, be released on good and sufficient bail. To this the Prefect, with the assent of his advisers, replied that if I would give a guarantee in writing that the men would not leave Bourgas he would let them all, except Khalil, out of prison.

Having written and transmitted the required document, I claimed the fulfilment of the Prefect's promise, which, to my great surprise, was refused. I then offered to find any amount of bail from the richest inhabitants of Bourgas, but the Prefect, taking the stand upon his own interpretation of Article 20 of the Organic Statute, declared that the men must remain in prison.

Amongst the Bulgarians present at the beating inflicted on the Turks was a certain Michael Oglou Pascal, of Cadikeui, near Kizildjik. This man, being in Bourgas, was to-day called up by the Prefect and examined. He declared that, hearing the firing, he had gone to Kizildjik, but arrived there only in time to see the Turks beaten by the soldiers. The Prefect then told him that if he should be examined he must state that the Turks fired and fired first upon the soldiers, and that if the English Consul asked him any questions he must give the same version of the affair.

This falsehood Pascal refused to tell on his first interview with the Prefect, and related the story to trustworthy persons here: but I hear he was sent for a second time, and as there is an old accusation of deserting from the militia hanging over him, it is possible that he may be induced to give evidence in the contrary sense.

According to the declarations of the villagers of Kizildjik, the officer (a Bulgarian) commanding the militia was the first to give the signal to fire by firing all the chambers of his revolver into the village.

Khalil utterly denies, and asserts that he can disprove, the accusation of complicity or even acquaintance with Choban Hassan.

As an example of the sort of discipline, civil and military, maintained by the militia, I should mention that the Bailli of Aidos, Salim Effendi, was quite ignorant that there was any complaint made about Kizildjik, or that the troops had left Aidos to attack the

village, and that General Strecker has lately issued a stringent order that no Bashi-Bazouks should be employed in conjunction with the soldiers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BROPHY.

No. 354.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October 28.*)

(No. 903. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October 21, 1879.*

SIR RICHARD WOOD is an old friend of Mahmoud Nedim Pasha. He has been good enough to give me a memorandum of some conversations he has held with his Highness, who explained his views and policy with the view of what he said being repeated to me, as he is very desirous of standing well with Her Majesty's Government and myself. Your Lordship will know what value is to be attributed to Mahmoud Nedim's declarations and professions. If I can keep him to them, well and good.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 354.

Substance of a Private Conversation between Sir R. Wood and Mahmoud Nedim Pasha.

IN a communication of a strictly personal and private character with the ex-Grand Vizier, Mahmoud Nedim Pasha, he alluded to several subjects which he accompanied with observations in explanation of his own acts and views with reference to them.

With regard to the financial question, Mahmoud Pasha asserted that after mature consideration he came to the conclusion that the revenues of Turkey were utterly inadequate to meet the expenditure of the Government, including the large annuities upon the Public Debt; that after consulting his colleagues, who entirely concurred with him, he informed both Sir H. Elliot and the French Ambassador of the collapse of the Turkish finances, and the consequent necessity of reducing the interest upon the Public Debt from 5 to 2½ per cent. He did not act, therefore, without the concurrence of the Porte and the knowledge of the Ambassadors. With respect, however, to future financial arrangements, Mahmoud Pasha stated that in a recent council he gave it as his opinion that it was useless, after the Porte's failure to carry out its previous promises, to offer a minimum interest to the bondholders. The Porte must begin by paying to establish its credit, and must offer besides such material guarantees as will induce capitalists to contract a new loan. They may even require, as an additional security, to be entrusted with the administration of the conceded revenues.

Relative to reforms, his Excellency affirmed that they were absolutely necessary in order to ameliorate the present most unsatisfactory state of the Empire, and save it from further disasters. The required reforms were in perfect accord with, and not in opposition to, the precepts of the Islamite law. On the contrary, it inculcated principles from which the ruling classes had long departed, be it from ignorance or from culpable personal considerations. The excuse for not carrying out loyally these reforms was the want of money; but he asked what money was required to enforce the impartial administration of justice, the suppression of the universal corruption which has been and still is the bane of the Empire, the doing away with oppression and tyranny.

It was perfectly useless to make laws and regulations so long as they were allowed to exist on paper. While they were made in common accord and had received the Imperial sanction they were left in abeyance, because they interfered with the personal interests and views of those who were entrusted with the administration of the Empire.

Unhappily, the rivalry and enmity between the high functionaries had attained a degree of intensity which rendered any prospect of a union among them or of a common action doubtful. It was a constant struggle for place. Whatever measure one party refused to carry out as being detrimental to the country, the adverse party immediately offered to execute it even against their own convictions. Hence the constant changes of Ministers, the instability of the Government and the great difficulty of adopting a Governmental system of any kind with the assurance of its being loyally and perseveringly carried out.

All attempts in this direction have hitherto failed. No one questioned the capacity and intelligence of the late Grand Vizier, Khaireddin Pasha. He was summoned to Constantinople by the Sultan to co-operate in the execution of reforms. It cannot be said that he had belonged to any of the rival parties. Nevertheless, so soon or even before he had attained the position which would have enabled him to remove the crying abuses which were ruining the Empire, all parties united against him. Intrigue followed intrigue. Convinced finally that he could not overcome his influential opponents by persuasion, he submitted his plan or programme of radical reforms to the Sultan, and he fell with it. Khaireddin Pasha erred in endeavouring to do too much at a time. With his perfect knowledge of European affairs, which he had studied, he did not perhaps possess an accurate knowledge of our institutions, of the spirit and aim of his rivals, and of the feelings of our Sovereigns, who are naturally jealous of their authority. Had I been here I would have willingly aided him with my advice. I would have readily imparted to him whatever I knew of our institutions, and I would have induced him to lay down certain principles, and to carry out, in the first instance, such reforms as would have led insensibly and progressively to the complete execution of his programme, without affording the means to his opponents of preferring allegations against him tending to create groundless alarm and apprehension. The Empire cannot progress under the present system. Reforms are indispensable; but the total lack of union, sincerity, and confidence among ourselves render their execution problematical.

Mahmoud Pasha went on to say—I am accused of being a fanatic and a partizan of Russian policy. The one is incompatible with the other. The policy of Russia has had for object for a very long time the destruction of Turkey, and with it the destruction of Islamism. In their manifestoes the Emperors have declared that they have a divine mission to do so. How can I, therefore, being a fanatic, abet a policy which aims at the destruction of my religion? I am far from being a partizan of Russian policy; but, having weighed the forces and the resources of the two Empires, I felt that we could not successfully sustain a war with our powerful enemy, and that as a consequence of our defeat we should be subjected to heavy losses of territory as well as of prestige, and that it would be a soundre and a wiser policy to avoid a war by conceding some of the privileges which Russia demanded for Bulgaria. I was punished by banishment, but the disastrous results of the war abundantly prove that I had taken a wise view of the matter; but because I tried to save my country from ultimate defeat and ruin, I am accused of being a Russian in feeling and policy.

I have invariably looked upon England as the only real and sincere friend of Turkey. But even on the supposition that I form too high an estimate of the friendship of England, her interests, in so far as the preservation of this Empire is concerned, are identical with our own, and upon these grounds we can always count upon her support. This conviction is generally entertained by all of us, having had undeniable proofs of it. If England does not befriend us for our own sakes, still she cannot abstain from coming to our assistance in support and defence of her important interests in the East which are so directly connected with the preservation of this Empire.

No one will dispute the naval power of Great Britain, but as we also require the moral support of a great military Power, prudence requires that we should not disregard the friendship of France, which can be occasionally turned to our advantage.

The Continental Powers are striving to place us under their tutelage. The realization of such a policy would only accelerate the downfall of the Empire. Their separate and secret aims and objects have always prevented them from acting in common accord, and a perfect, a sincere, and a disinterested understanding among them cannot be expected. And were they successful in establishing their tutelage, the conflict and rivalry for the acquirement of influence to serve their respective and national interests would be such as to perplex the Government, divide us more than ever into distinct parties, create serious conflicts among us, and render thereby impossible the peaceful administration of the country—a result which would inevitably induce the foreign Powers to redouble their pressure, each, however, in the sense best suited to its views and interests, until we ceased altogether to be a Government. Are they prepared to pursue a policy calculated to accelerate the dismemberment of the Empire, and will it be to their advantage or detriment?

The conversation being of a private and intimate character, Mahmoud Pasha spoke unreservedly. He developed his meaning at some length, which he supported by arguments based upon past and present events.

(Signed) R. WOOD.

Constantinople, October 18, 1879.

No. 355.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 28.)

(No. 906.) *Therapia, October* 21, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a despatch I have received from Captain Swaine, Military Attaché to this Embassy, reporting his visit to the lines of Buyuk-Tchekmedjie.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 355.

Captain Swaine to Sir A. H. Layard.

Therapia, October 20, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that on Saturday last I paid a flying visit to a portion of the great lines of Buyuk-Tchekmedjie-Derkos.

Captain Sale, Royal Engineers, accompanied me.

We reached Hademkeui by train about 9 A.M., and as soon as our horses were ready, escorted by the Colonel commanding the artillery on the lines and by Bedri Bey, an intelligent Turkish staff officer, we started for the works.

The point we struck was at the redoubt overlooking the village of Baghtcha-ish, and from it we rode in a northerly direction as far as the one near, but just beyond, the village of Urzoulu, visiting on the road all the different description of works of the front line.

The redoubts are mainly on Bluhm Pasha's trace, which is faulty on account of its number of guns being cramped into too small a space, and of its want of bomb-proof cover for the men. They are all well armed, the heaviest guns being of 15 centim., and although many embrasures were empty, yet the guns were on the spot and only required running up.

The works appeared all finished except in one or two minor details, to have been well built, and to be capable of being easily kept in repair with a minimum of trouble.

There is at present a great want of good roads, especially on the left and left centre of the line. The ground, after the little rain we have had, was already very heavy, and in some parts swampy.

The few men who garrison the works are still mainly under canvas, and as they are badly clad and indifferently fed, the winter for them will prove a very trying one.

Before the war, as far as the eye could reach, every inch of the country was cultivated, but now it looked bleak and uninviting. The peasant is too poor to buy the ox, which would help him to till the ground, and the land of beautiful light and fertile soil remains unproductive and neglected.

I have been given to understand that Lieutenant Chermside, late Assistant Military Attaché to Sir C. Dickson, some time ago (I believe in December last) sent home a despatch, together with a carefully executed map, giving all the details of these lines after a very minute inspection of them. No copy of these exist in this Office, and it appears that for a time these documents were mislaid. I should be glad to have copies of them if they have been printed either by the Foreign Office or Intelligent Department.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LEOPOLD V. SWAINE,
Military Attaché.

No. 356.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 28.)

(No. 908.) *Therapia, October* 21, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a Report of the proceedings at the last meeting of the Turkish and Greek Plenipotentiaries for the settlement of the question of the new

Greek frontier, published in the "Phare du Bosphore," and no doubt communicated to that newspaper by the Greek Legation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 356.

Extract from the "Phare du Bosphore."

QUESTION HELLÉNIQUE.—RÉSUMÉ DU COMPTE-RENDU DE LA SIXIÈME SÉANCE DE LA COMMISSION.—La sixième séance de la Commission Turco-Hellénique a eu lieu à Stamboul Samedi passé, à 2 heures de l'après-midi. Cette nouvelle réunion des Délégués des deux pays est restée comme les autres, sans résultat.

Dès le début de la séance, les Commissaires Hellènes ont déclaré, conformément aux instructions de leur Gouvernement, qu'ils acceptent le projet de Déclaration présenté en dernier lieu par leurs collègues Ottomans. Puis, M. Braïla, prenant la parole, a dit que la Porte ayant insisté pour mettre en discussion et au besoin modifier les indications du Protocole No. 13, a trahi l'intention de substituer une autre ligne-frontière à celle énoncée dans ledit Protocole. En conséquence, conclut-il, les Délégués Hellènes prient leurs collègues Ottomans d'indiquer les limites dans lesquelles ils pensent que la rectification des frontières devrait se faire dans l'intérêt des deux pays.

Les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans ont répondu que, s'en tenant, pour le moment, aux indications du Congrès, qui doivent faire l'objet de la discussion de la Conférence, ils n'ont pour leur parte aucune autre ligne à faire connaître, et prient leurs collègues Hellènes de commencer la discussion en développant les raisons qui, suivant eux, militent en faveur de l'adoption du tracé de Berlin.

M. Braïla répliqua que son Gouvernement, s'inclinant devant la volonté de l'Europe, n'a formulé en son temps aucune objection contre la ligne adoptée à Berlin. Comme rien n'est venu depuis modifier la manière de voir du Cabinet Hellénique, celui-ci par déférence pour les Grandes Puissances Signataires du Traité, a cru devoir s'en tenir purement et simplement aux Vallées du Kalamas et du Pénée.

Dès lors, il importe peu à la Commission que les avantages d'une ligne, tracée par un Congrès Européen et acceptée par la Grèce, soient développées par celle-ci. C'est aux Délégués Ottomans, au contraire, d'exposer les raisons qui les amènent à ne point l'admettre telle quelle et à développer celles qui, suivant eux, militent en faveur d'une modification.

La discussion se prolongea ainsi pendant une heure sur cet incident tout-à-fait nouveau dans les annales de la diplomatie, et au moment de la trancher, la nouvelle du changement Ministériel pénétra dans la salle des Conférences. Safvet Pacha demanda alors l'ajournement à Lundi et les représentants des deux pays se séparèrent sans avoir fait un seul pas en avant.

La septième séance n'aura pas lieu aujourd'hui, l'un des membres de la Commission, Sawas Pacha, nommé Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, devant recevoir les Représentants des Puissances Etrangères.

No. 357.

Mr. Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 28.)

(No. 187.)
My Lord, *Sophia, October* 13, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for information, a copy of a despatch addressed by myself to his Excellency E. B. Malet, at present in charge of Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople, regarding the cession of Ichtiman and the adjoining villages to the Government of East Roumelia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

Inclosure in No. 357.

Mr. Palgrave to Mr. Malet.

S, *Sophia, October* 11, 1879.

IN reply to your Excellency's telegram regarding the non-tradition of Ichtiman to the East Roumelian authorities, I had the honour to-day, after an interview with the Bulgarian Minister for Foreign Affairs, to reply in cypher, to the following effect:—

That Ichtiman belonging, according to the pre-existent Ottoman territorial disposition, unaltered hitherto, to the Samakow circumscription, the strictest orders had been given, both by word of mouth and by official writing, to M. Pantelieff, Governor of Samakow, to make over Ichtiman itself, and eleven of its village dependencies indicated on the map of the Boundary Commission, to the East Roumelian authorities by the 24th September (old style), corresponding to our 5th October, and that these orders had been executed in due course.

Since then the French Diplomatic Agent has informed me that the actual effectuation of the transfer had taken place on the 7th October, the Bulgarian police having been recalled, and the East Roumelian Governor, M. Nachoff, put in possession. Thus the elections which, at least in Bulgaria, will take place to-morrow, will, so far as Ichtiman is concerned, be duly subordinate to the decision and delimitation of the Boundary Commission, nor, should any latter difficulty arise, or seem to arise, will its responsibility lie with the Government of this Principality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 358.

Mr. Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 28.)

(No. 189.)
My Lord, *Sophia, October* 13, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report that a private letter, dated five days since from Rustchuk, informs me that one of the not yet dismantled batteries, Levan Zabia by name, near that town, has been recently put into a condition of defence, and mounted with eight large guns.

I have written to Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Rustchuk, requesting full and accurate information on this point before noting it to the Ministry for War at this capital.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 359.

Mr. Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 28.)

(No. 191.)
My Lord, *Sophia, October* 15, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 130 of the 24th ultimo, with its inclosures, regarding ill-treatment of Mussulman residents in Bulgaria. Your Lordship's instructions relative to this subject shall be exactly carried out, and I trust to be able to report accordingly by next mail; the present one, which leaves within an hour of my receipt of your Lordship's despatch, and of my writing this, allowing me no time for the very serious steps I propose taking in this regard with the Government of the Principality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 360.

Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 28.)

(No. 33. Political.)
My Lord, *Basna-Serai, October* 14, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 31, Political, of the 25th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that matters do not appear to be in a very satisfactory

state in the Herzegovina. Bands of Christian insurgents still roam the country, and it seems to be the opinion of military men that a considerable force and much time and money will be required to restore order and tranquillity in the country.

The aim of the insurgents does not seem to be very clear, but it is evident that the sympathies of the Orthodox portion of the population of the Herzegovina are too strongly Montenegrin ever to allow them to become loyal subjects of Austria-Hungary. They are also, no doubt, disappointed at not being put in possession of the land of their Mussulman landlords, the object for which, as they say, they have so long shed their blood.

They are likewise averse to giving their sons as gendarmes or soldiers to serve a Catholic Government, with the prospect of their arms being some day turned against their fellow-countrymen and co-religionists.

The Austrian authorities seem rather to attribute these disorders to the influences of Servian and Montenegrin Agents, and they affirm that the insurgents are supplied from beyond the frontier with money and provisions.

I have heard it asserted that next spring there will be a general rising of the Orthodox population of the Herzegovina against the present Government, but I do not myself participate in these pessimist views.

In the meantime, the Austrian authorities are endeavouring to bring about a better feeling in the country. They have increased the pay of those Pandoors who have remained faithful to their service, and grain is distributed to the inhabitants of the districts of Nevesinje, Gacko, Bilek, and Ljubinje, with the exception of those families who are known to have members amongst the insurgents.

The ten prisoners whom I reported in my despatch No. 31, Political, as likely to be shot, have been set at liberty in the absence of sufficiently damnatory proof against them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 361.

Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 28.)

(No. 34. Political.) *Bosna-Serai, October* 17, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 25, Political, of the 10th ultimo, on the administration of justice in Bosnia and the Herzegovina, I have the honour to transmit herewith translation of an instruction, given in the month of June last by Baron Jovanovic to the authorities in these provinces, regarding the maintenance of Consular Jurisdiction. This instruction was not officially communicated to the resident Consuls, and I have only lately obtained a copy of it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

Inclosure in No. 361.

Instruction from Baron Jovanovic to the Authorities in Bosnia and the Herzegovina regarding the Maintenance of Consular Jurisdiction.

Gouvernement Civil de la Bosnie et l'Herzégovine,
Sérajévo, le 16 *Juin*, 1879.

(Traduction.)

LES autorités et les Présidents de Tribunaux sont avisés que la juridiction Consulaire est maintenue en ce qui concerne les affaires civiles; ils doivent donc s'y conformer et donner en conséquence des instructions à leurs subordonnés.

Voici les bases de cette juridiction :—

1. Dans tout procès civil, lorsque les parties en cause sont étrangères à la Turquie, les Tribunaux Locaux ne seront pas compétents et l'affaire devra être déférée aux Consulats de la nation à laquelle elles appartiennent.

2. S'il s'agit d'une affaire d'immeubles les Tribunaux Locaux seront seuls compétents, le Consul ne pouvant exercer un droit quelconque de juridiction.

3. Si un indigène a un procès avec un étranger, le Tribunal du pays décidera; mais il sera fait exception pour les cas de faillite et de succession dans lesquels l'étranger serait compétent, le Tribunal Consulaire qu'il appartiendra devant alors seul décider.

4. La cause pourra être remise au Tribunal Consulaire compétent lorsque dans un procès entre un étranger et un indigène celui-ci, agissant à titre de demandeur, le désirera, et présentera à cet effet une requête.

5. Le Consul ou son délégué pourra assister aux procès soumis aux Tribunaux du pays et où l'un de ses nationaux serait en cause, soit comme plaignant soit comme défendeur, voire aussi à titre de témoin, mais il n'aura aucun droit de prendre part aux débats.

6. Les citations et les communications ne pourront être faites aux sujets étrangers que par l'entremise de leurs Consulats respectifs, excepté pourtant dès qu'il s'agira d'une affaire d'immeubles.

7. Tout jugement, voire même celui rendu par un Tribunal local, ne pourra être exécuté à l'encontre d'un sujet étranger que par le canal du Consulat compétent.

(Signé) JOVANOVIC,
Field-Marshal Lieutenant.

No. 362.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 28.)

(No. 299.) *Philippopoli, October* 15, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a cutting from the "Philippopolis" of this date, reproducing in the French language an extract from the "Golos," the leading journal of St. Petersburgh, which gives, in the form of a letter from its own correspondent, writing from Eski-Zaghra in this province, an account of the manner in which Mussulmans are treated at Slivno.

The correspondent states that it is only Turkish women and children that are located in houses, the men being mostly shut up in a slaughter-house and in other unwholesome buildings; that the Bulgarians refuse to give the Turks any work, or even to sell them bread and other necessaries of life, and that consequently the destitute, receiving only a cake of bread daily, are dying of dysentery, famine, and typhus.

The most serious part of the denunciations of the Russian correspondent establish an evident conspiracy on the part of the Bulgarians of Slivno, instigated by a man who is Judge, as well as President, of the "National Committee" and Gymnastic Society, in that town. It consists in forcing the miserable refugees, by famine, to sell their property for a few piastres or a piece of bread.

Thus the correspondent confirms the statement which I made in the despatch I had the honour to address to your Lordship on the 8th instant, to the effect that the refugees were being forced to deliver notes of hand (acknowledgments of indebtedness) to Bulgarians, who, therefore, brought sham actions against them, and obtained by such means possession of Turkish lands and property.

The testimony of the correspondent of the "Golos" compels me to believe in further reports which have reached me to the effect that at Yamboli, Eski-Zaghra, and Slivno, the returned Mussulmans are not permitted to rebuild their houses.

In order to complete this picture of unspeakable Bulgarian oppression and spoliation, the Russian correspondent cynically states that "it is principally Turks who have money, and who cannot, therefore, be compelled by famine to sign notes of hand, or to sell their property, that are kept in prison. Rich landed proprietors are more especially the objects of persecution."

As an instance, the correspondent relates that he found the Turkish proprietor of one of the largest farms in the district imprisoned on an evidently false charge of having murdered forty Bulgarian women in 1876.

On this point also my own information coincides with that which has now been published in the "Golos," for, notwithstanding a prohibition issued by General Stolipine to the effect that no claims or actions relating to the years 1876 and 1877 should be entertained by the administrative or judicial authorities, Aleko Pasha unfortunately took upon himself to arrange with Réouf Pasha that no Turk "compromised" should be sent back to Eastern Roumelia.

The consequence has been that the leading Turks of Eastern Roumelia have hitherto not been able to return, simply because they possessed property and influence, and that the few who have ventured to come back have been cast into prison on pretended charges, as at Slivno, or sent back to Adrianople, after having been imprisoned with malefactors, as at Tatar-Bazardjik.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 362.

Extract from the "Philippopolis" of October 15, 1879.

LES RÉFUGIÉS TURCS D'APRÈS LE "GOLOS."—Dans notre dernier numéro nous avons reproduit un article du "Times," ayant trait à la Roumélie Orientale. Aujourd'hui nous nous empressons de publier quelque chose du "Golos." C'est une lettre que la feuille Russe reçoit de son correspondant d'Eski-Zaghra, et dont nous reproduisons textuellement les passages les plus saillants. On sait que le "Golos," qui est un des journaux les plus autorisés de la Russie, n'est pas suspect d'être Turcophile, encore moins Phil-Hellène; cependant il ne peut faire autrement que d'avouer, comme bien d'autres feuilles Russes, la vérité historique des faits et d'embrasser l'opinion générale de l'Europe sur les actes d'oppression dont les Musulmans sont l'objet dans cette province. Mais laissons parler le correspondant d'Eski-Zaghra :—

"L'attitude des Bulgares vis-à-vis des Turcs étant actuellement une question d'une importance vitale pour la Roumélie Orientale, j'ai fait de mon mieux par l'étudier minutieusement partout où je me suis rendu. La prison de Slivno, où sont écroués des enfants et des vieillards nourris de pain sec, m'a surtout contraint de donner à cette question une attention toute spéciale. J'ai commencé par interroger tout le monde pour avoir des renseignements exacts sur tout ce qui se passe dans cette ville.

"Il ne faut pas oublier que je ne comprends pas un mot de Turc et que je n'ai pas voulu me servir d'un interprète Bulgare pour ne pas compromettre les Musulmans qui auraient eu à me faire des communications. J'ai donc été obligé de me contenter seulement du témoignage des Bulgares.

"Voici, sans exagération, le résultat de mes investigations :—

"A Slivno les Turcs sont logés dans les maisons des habitants, c'est-a-dire dans leurs propres demeures qui sont actuellement occupées par les Bulgares; mais, en disant Turcs, je ne parle que des femmes et des enfants, car les hommes sont pour la plupart agglomérés, qui dans des abattoirs, qui encore dans d'autres lieux malsains.

"Sous l'instigation des autorités, principalement sous celle de Hadji Dimitri Boyadjieff, qui cumule les fonctions de Juge de Slivno et de Président du Comité National (?) et de la Société Gymnastique, la population Bulgare refuse aux Turcs toute espèce de travail; elle ne veut pas même leur vendre du pain ni quoi que ce soit de première nécessité. Comme les Turcs sont complétement dépourvus de tout et que le Gouvernement a réduit leur ration journalière à une galette par homme, la dyssenterie, la famine, et le typhus font de grands ravages parmi eux.

"On dirait qu'une conspiration a été tramée contre eux dans le but de les contraindre, par la faim, à délivrer à leurs concitoyens Bulgares des déclarations écrites par lesquelles ils se reconnaissent leurs débiteurs. C'est, d'après les Bulgares, le seul moyen d'entrer dans leurs fonds, car, sans cela, il leur est impossible, disent-ils (grâce à la Proclamation Russe), de faire des poursuites pour anciens dommages ou pertes.

"Cet ingénieux et honnête expédient fut inspiré à la population par Hadji Dimitri, à qui toutes les réclamations de cette nature sont présentées. Il me l'avoua lui-même en présence de la sœur Teherkus; je me crois donc en droit de livrer son nom à la publicité.

"Ce ne sont pas les réfugiés Turcs, actuellement rentrés dans le pays, qui avaient causé des dégâts au préjudice des Bulgares, mais cela n'y fait rien: étant tous de la même race, ils peuvent bien payer les uns pour les autres. 'Mais donnez-leur donc du travail, nourrissez-les,' ai-je fait remarquer, 'et ils ne vendront pas leurs terres. Il n'y a que la faim qui oblige les hommes à se défaire de tout ce qu'ils possèdent pour quelques piastres, quelquefois même pour un morceau de pain.' Le Turc qui consent à délivrer un bon ou qui vend ses terres, obtient seul sa liberté et quelquefois du travail.

"On garde principalement en prison ceux des Turcs qui ont de l'argent et que l'on ne peut par conséquent forcer par la faim à signer des bons ou à vendre leurs biens. Les riches propriétaires sont surtout poursuivis avec acharnement.

"Ainsi l'homme qui est accusé d'avoir assassiné quarante femmes Bulgares est le propriétaire de la plus grande ferme du district.

"Dans un autre passage de sa correspondance, l'auteur de cette lettre donne à entendre qu'il ne croit pas du tout à la vérité de l'accusation portée contre ce jeune et sympathique Turc. Le correspondant l'a vu et il avoue que l'impression que ce jeune homme a fait sur lui n'était pas celle d'un assassin: de façon qu'il doute fort que ce soit lui qui a tué ces quarante femmes en 1876."

(Le correspondant ajoute que pendant sa tournée dans les prisons de Slivno, il était accompagné du Juge de la ville, qui, sur sa demande, donna l'ordre à un gendarme d'aller chercher un échantillon de la nourriture distribuée aux prisonniers. Le gendarme revint

avec un morceau du pain et un grand plat d'excellent pilaf. Interrogé par le correspondant si c'était vraiment le régime ordinaire des prisonniers Musulmans, le gendarme répondit négativement. Le Juge avait beau lui faire des signes pour dire oui, le gendarme n'y comprenait rien. Voyant à la fin que, par la bêtise de ce butor de gendarme, tout allait se gâter, il changea de tactique: il commanda à ce dernier d'un ton bourru d'apporter un spécimen du repas des prisonniers Turcs, mais le gendarme montra innocemment le morceau de pain sec qu'il tenait à la main et dit que ces malheureux n'obtenaient rien de plus.)

No. 363.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 28.)

(No. 300.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, October 15, 1879.*

THE "Maritza" of yesterday's date publishes the inclosed Address, which is stated to have been presented to Baron de Ring at Kustendil by 150 Bulgarians of Macedonia, who draw the attention of the French Commissioner to the atrocities, excesses, and outrages of which they affirm they are the victims at the hands of the Turkish authorities in that province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 363.

Extract from the "Maritza" of October 14, 1879.

NOS lecteurs savent que M. le Baron de Ring, Premier Délégué de France dans la Commission de la Roumélie Orientale, a passé par Sophia et Kustendil pour se rendre en Macédoine. Les nombreux Bulgares Macédoniens, qui se trouvent à Kustendil, lui ont présenté une adresse, dont voici la traduction :—

"Excellence,

"Nous soussignés, réfugiés Macédoniens, avons été on ne peut plus émus en apprenant votre arrivée et votre noble mission de visiter notre patrie et de vous informer de la véritable situation de la malheureuse population Bulgare de la Macédoine. Votre Gouvernement, Excellence, qui a pris l'initiative de cette œuvre Chrétienne et philanthropique et votre noble nation ont acquis des titres impérissables à notre plus profonde reconnaissance.

"Excellence!

"Comme vous verrez de vos propres yeux la situation insupportable de nos frères de la Macédoine, nous croyons superflu de vous donner des détails sur les Gouverneurs Turcs, qui ont été condamnés par tout le monde, et sur les affreux abus dont ils se rendent coupables envers la malheureuse population Chrétienne. Nous prendrons seulement la liberté de vous prier de vouloir bien vous enquérir des atrocités qui nous ont forcés de nous expatrier, et d'abandonner nos femmes et enfants à l'inqualifiable arbitraire des autorités Turques. En même temps, nous vous prions, au nom de toute la population Bulgare de la Macédoine, de prêter votre attention aux innocents qui sont détenus dans les prisons d'Uscup et Kumanovo, au pillage de plusieurs églises, à la violation d'un grand nombre de femmes et filles, aussi bien qu'aux autres excès et outrages des zaptiés et gardes-champêtres de Velles, excès et outrages qui dernièrement ont été prouvés de la manière la plus convaincante par les Bulgares aussi bien que par les Turcs devant les Consuls Européens à Salonique. Nous vous prions aussi de prendre des renseignements sur le déplorable état de choses dans les villes de Prilep et Bitolia (Monastir), sur les atrocités inouïes perpétrées par les Beys et les gardes-champêtres Musulmans, aussi bien que sur les actes barbares commis par les autorités Turques de la ville d'Ochrida, où aujourd'hui même les églises restent fermées, grâce à l'arbitraire inouï de ces inqualifiables autorités.

"Avant de conclure, permettez-nous, Excellence, de vous implorer, au nom de la justice, au nom de l'humanité, de vouloir bien exposer le résultat de votre enquête impar-

tiale sur la véritable situation de notre pays devant l'Europe civilisée, de laquelle nous attendons l'amélioration de notre sort, la sécurité de notre vie, honneur, et propriété.

"Nous avons, &c.

"(Suivent plus de 150 signatures.)"

No. 364.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 28.)

(No. 301.)

Philippopoli, October 15, 1879.

My Lord,

THE inclosed article from the "Maritza" of yesterday's date betrays alarm at the reported intention of the Porte to recall Aleko Pasha, and to occupy this province with Turkish troops.

It qualifies the alleged persecution of the Turkish refugees as imaginary, and asks on what grounds the Porte could request the Powers to agree to the dismissal of Aleko Pasha, who, according to the "Maritza," is the very man for the position of Governor-General, no better selection being possible at the present conjuncture.

The Bulgarian organ affects surprise at the question of Aleko Pasha's dismissal being mooted in the Constantinople press, at the very time when he is receiving, on his tour of inspection through the province, the "merited ovations of the entire population," and when, amidst general enthusiasm, "the Bulgarian people celebrate in the person of the Prince the principle of their liberation from tyrannical Ottoman administration."

It suggests that the popularity and sympathy earned by "Prince Bogoridi" may have produced the desire for his recall.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 365.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 28.)

(No. 302.)

Philippopoli, October 15, 1879.

My Lord,

The "Philippoupolis" has this day published the inclosed explanation of the circumstances under which the Prefect of Yeni-Zaghra procured a letter, purporting to have been signed by all the Jewish inhabitants of Yeni-Zaghra, and in which it was denied that the Jewish refugees had met with any ill-treatment at the hands of the Bulgarians.

It appears that the Prefect induced a Jew from Adrianople, who was passing through Yeni-Zaghra on business, to sign a Bulgarian document to the above effect in the name of all his co-religionists, but that the Jew took care to write in Hebrew above his signature: "I declare that, during the month I have passed at Yeni-Zaghra, I have seen no Bulgarian maltreat or kill an Israelite."

In exposing this unworthy expedient for the distortion of truth, the editor of the Hellenic organ states that the authorities of Yeni-Zaghra are treating the Jews so badly that they have telegraphed to the representative of the Jewish Alliance, requesting that another place of residence may be assigned to them.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 365.

Extract from the "Philippoupolis" of October 15, 1879.

LES ISRAÉLITES DE YÉNI-ZAGHRA.—La "Maritza" a publié dernièrement une prétendue lettre signée par tous les habitants Israélites de Yéni-Zaghra. Dans ce document, dont l'authenticité ne saurait être nullement contestée, du moins d'après l'organe Panbulgare, les enfants d'Israël démentent formellement ce que nous avons dit dans le temps au sujet des vexations des Bulgares à leur endroit: "Les assertions du "Philippoupolis" sont, disent-ils, autant de contes bleus inventés à plaisir. Nous n'avons qu'à nous louer de la conduite de nos compatriotes Bulgares à notre égard." C'est surtout M. le Préfet de

Yéni-Zaghra qui est le plus mijoté. Les Israélites ne lui ménagent pas leur encens; ils le font mousser au point qu'on est porté à croire qu'ils sont tout disposés à lui ériger une statue.

Cette déclaration des réfugiés Israélites nous a d'autant plus étonnés que nous avons l'habitude de ne rien dire que nous ne puissions prouver en temps et lieux. On en sait déjà quelque chose. Comme cette fois aussi nous voulons en avoir le cœur net, nous annonçons à nos lecteurs que nous tenons les fils de cette nouvelle manigance des Bulgares. Des personnes dignes de foi nous ont mis sur la voie de la vérité.

Le nommé Mahir Nathan, originaire d'Andrinople, qui se trouvait de passage à Yéni-Zaghra où l'avaient appelé les affaires de son commerce fut invité dernièrement à se présenter devant le Préfet de cette ville, et voici dans quelles circonstances:

On sait que le Préfet en question n'était pas précisément le moins coupable dans l'affaire des réfugiés Israélites de Yéni-Zaghra. Pour détruire les accusations qui pesaient sur lui et sur les autres Bulgares de la ville, l'idée lui trotta par la tête de fabriquer la pièce qu'on a lue dans la "Maritza." Mais ce n'était pas tout que de l'écrire, il fallait encore, pour lui donner un certain air d'authenticité, la faire signer par ceux-là mêmes qui y étaient mis en jeu. Il est à présumer que les Israélites n'ont eu garde de donner des verges pour se fouetter: ils refusèrent net de signer leur propre condamnation. Voilà donc pourquoi le Préfet fit venir Nathan auprès de lui, pour voir s'il n'y avait pas moyen de le faire sa dupe. Il lui présenta par conséquent la pièce en question, qui était rédigée en langue Bulgare, et le pria de signer pour lui et pour tous ses autres corligionnaires. L'intelligent Nathan, qui avait tout intérêt à être bien dans les papiers du Préfet, chercha et trouva le moyen, tout en ménageant la chèvre, de sauver en même temps le chou. Il fit donc semblant d'acquiescer à son désir, mais avant d'apposer sa signature sur cette pièce, il eut soin d'y ajouter ces quelques mots en Hébreu: "Je soussigné déclare que depuis un mois que je me trouve à Yéni-Zaghra je n'ai vu aucun Bulgare maltraiter ni tuer un Israélite." Comme on le voit, le plus benêt dans cette affaire n'est pas celui qu'on pense le moins.

Nous faisons le public juge des moyens qu'on emploie pour dénaturer la vérité; qu'il nous dise s'ils sont compatibles avec la loyauté et la justice qu'on est en droit d'exiger de la part des fonctionnaires d'un Etat.

Nos autres informations qui nous viennent de Yéni-Zaghra sont loin de présenter la situation des Israélites de cette ville comme très-satisfaisante. Les autorités ne leur permettent pas de louer des magasins; elles les conseillent au contraire de quitter la ville, parce qu'elles ne répondent pas de leur vie. Les Israélites ont déjà télégraphié à M. F. Veneziani, Représentant de l'Alliance de Paris, de leur désigner un autre lieu plus sûr où ils puissent transporter leurs pénates.

No. 366.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 28.)

(No. 303.)

Philippopoli, October 18, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 299 of the 15th instant, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith an extract from the "Philippoupolis" of this date, containing some further revelations by the correspondent of the "Golos," one of the leading journals published at St. Petersburgh, respecting the proceedings of the Bulgarians towards the Turks of this province, and more particularly respecting the Committees by which, as your Lordship is already aware, a certain section of the Bulgarian population is still attempting to frustrate the intentions of Europe as recorded in the Treaty of Berlin and the Organic Statute.

The correspondent shows that it rests entirely upon the authorities to prevent the ignorant peasantry from destroying Turkish property in the vain hope of rendering impossible the return of the refugees, fresh instances of such wholesale destruction being given in the letter, which bears the date of the 29th ultimo.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 366.

Extract from the "Philippoupolis" of October 18, 1879.

LE "GOLOS" ET LA ROUMÉLIE ORIENTALE.—De plus fort en plus fort! Le correspondant du "Golos," qui, comme la feuille Russe, ne peut certes être suspect de partialité, continue à nous édifier, par ses révélations, sur les agissements des Bulgares de notre chère province. Après avoir parlé des moyens illicites que ces derniers emploient pour cacher aux yeux du monde leurs actes d'oppression à l'endroit des réfugiés Musulmans, il nous révèle maintenant les intrigues des différents Comités, qui sont répandus dans la Roumélie Orientale, et organisés dans un but que le correspondant du "Golos" explique assez clairement.

Nous reproduisons ici divers passages (extraits) saillants que nous extrayons de la même correspondance paru dans les colonnes du "Golos," (en date du $\frac{17}{29}$ Septembre, No. 257.)

"Le correspondant fait l'éloge de l'activité déployée par le Bailli d'Eski-Zaghra, M. Markoff. Ensuite il dit que 'les Tures sont assez bien traités ici et, ce qui est de la plus haute importance, ils sont traités avec égard. Il est vrai que des petits différends se sont soulevés entre Bulgares et Tures, mais, dans tous les cas, les propriétés de ces derniers ne leur sont ni enlevées ni retenues. Les maisons restées intactes appartiennent principalement à des Tures; personne ne pense le leur nier ni leur contester le droit d'en prendre possession. . . . Malheureusement ce bon exemple est limité dans la ville et je crois qu'il n'atteint pas les villages, car M. Markoff, comme son ami le Dr. Kokanoff, pousse rarement ses tournées aussi loin.'

"Abandonnés à leurs propres instincts, les Bratouchki donnent libre carrière à leur haine et à leur frayeur. Il n'y a pas longtemps, ils ont démoli de fond en comble un village Ture; dans leurs propres villages, ils sont en train de détruire les habitations Musulmanes. Ils s'imaginent qu'en se livrant à ces extrémités ils parviendront à empêcher le retour des Tures; cependant si on leur expliquait que de pareils procédés ne pourront être d'aucun effet sur l'esprit des réfugiés qui rentrent, il est très-probable qu'ils finiraient par entendre raison et cesseraient leur œuvre de destruction. En général ici tout dépend des autorités. Si elles veulent agir sur l'esprit de la population, il n'y aura pas de désordres; mais si elles s'abstiennent de la dissauder par leurs raisonnements et leurs conseils, on pourra s'attendre à tout. La population qui est ignorante a une bien faible idée de sa situation politique.

"A Eski-Zaghra j'eus l'occasion d'être témoin d'un incident tragico-comique qui me rappela vivement mon pays et la cheville ouvrière du Panslavisme. Ce qui complète le parallèle, c'est que cet incident fut en même temps une dispute entre les membres d'un Comité et ceux d'une Commission de Contrôle. Il est indispensable d'ajouter que le différend touchait à une question d'argent dont le Comité—comme cela convient à tout véritable Comité Panslaviste—se refusa de rendre compte.

"Il est également nécessaire que vous sachiez qu'en Roumélie Orientale il existe des Comités; mais il ne faut pas me demander la cause de leur existence ni le but qu'ils poursuivent. On les appelle simplement 'Comités,' mais qui dit Comité dit tout. Très-probablement ils ont en vue un objet, mais un objet soigneusement dérobé aux regards des curieux; dans cette dernière catégorie est positivement compris tout le monde, même ceux des Bulgares qui s'efforcent de pénétrer le secret des actes de ces Comités anonymes.

"Ils sont répartis dans tous les chef-lieux des divers districts de la province et le Comité Central qui les régit tous siége à Philippopoli. Ce sont ces Comités qui ont fait des collectes d'argent.

"Ceux qui ont proposé les premiers l'institution de ces contributions volontaires avaient déjà acquis une certaine expérience à persuader la population d'ouvrir sa bourse en faveur de diverses souscriptions patriotiques. Malgré cela, la dernière quête qu'ils firent en vue d'une insurrection en Macédoine ne rapporta pas plus de 250 roubles.

"Pour que la chose ne se renouvelât pas une seconde fois, les hommes d'expérience en question imaginèrent un nouvel expédient, celui de la contribution 'obligatoire' et par ce moyen ils purent obtenir une forte somme, destinée à faciliter l'exécution d'un projet très-vaste. Il ne s'agissait de rien moins que d'aider les Bulgares de la Roumélie Orientale à s'opposer à l'Europe. Comme on le sait fort bien, les Bulgares ne firent aucune tentative de soulèvement contre cette dernière. En attendant les Comités continuent à garder l'argent ainsi ramassé. Les premiers organisateurs de ce mouvement se sont éclipsés; les souscripteurs ont commencé à murmurer: ils demandent ce qu'on a fait de cet argent; pourquoi ne leur est-il pas rendu du moment où il ne sort plus? dans tous les cas, pour quelle raison n'est-il pas affecté à une entreprise quelconque d'utilité publique?

"N'oublions pas de dire que ceux qui avaient encaissé si adroitement les donations 'volontaires' furent contraints, pour amener la population à ouvrir sa bourse, de lui faire la promesse de rendre l'argent dans le cas qu'il ne serait plus nécessaire.

"Pour bien examiner cette question importante, le peuple se réunit dans plusieurs localités et décida qu'on nommerait une Commission Spéciale de Contrôle. Une fois cette Commission formée elle demanda aussitôt aux divers Comités de lui rendre compte de l'emploi des fonds ramassés, ainsi que la destination qu'ils auraient reçus. Les Comités refusèrent avec opiniâtreté d'accéder à son désir et le résultat de ce refus fut que les deux partis entamèrent une correspondance, car il est reçu que rien ne peut se faire sans correspondance. Les Comités invitèrent la Commission de Contrôle à se charger de trouver elle-même les comptes et pièces à l'appui qu'elle réclamait, et refusèrent péremptoirement de produire des pièces justificatives, ou de signer tout compte, même si la Commission parvenait, contre toute attente, à en établir un.

"M. Lultcheff, un des membres de la Commission, poursuivit cette affaire avec un acharnement digne de Marsyas. Il écrivit; il exigea; il employa de la rhétorique; bref, il ne donna pas de repos au Comité (Central?) qui, fatigué des attaques d'un pareil ennemi, finit par céder et consentit à présenter un compte; mais ses membres ne voulurent pas le signer. Ainsi aucune provocation de la part de la Commission de Contrôle ne réussit à faire revenir le Comité en question sur son refus.

"Le jour même de mon arrivée à Eski-Zaghra un rassemblement eut lieu dans la cour de l'église. Dans ce meeting, M. Lultcheff tint un discours où il exposa les vains efforts qu'il n'a cessé de faire, depuis deux mois, en vue d'obtenir du Comité un extrait de ses comptes. Il conclut en priant l'Assemblée d'accepter sa démission comme membre de la Commission de Contrôle, ou de lui donner des instructions précises sur la ligne de conduite qu'il devrait adopter dans cette affaire, de l'y assister même si besoin était.

"Sur ce, un des membres du Comité parut et déclara que Lultcheff était 'un menteur, un misérable, un fieffé coquin;' l'orateur ajoute que ce récit était une invention de Lultcheff qui avait aussi imaginé et composé la correspondance qu'il présenta dans cette réunion. Le Comité avait en effet dépensé l'argent, pour la 'cause,' et qu'il en rendrait compte aux intéressés à l'heure propice.

"Quels sont les intéressés et quelle sera l'heure propice, voilà deux choses sur lesquelles l'éloquent membre du Comité ne s'est pas expliqué. Mais cela ne faisait rien; son but principal était de déverser le déshonneur sur un homme qui s'est rendu désagréable et de lui enlever la confiance dont il jouissait dans l'esprit de ses compatriotes: Le reste devait venir tout seul."

No. 367.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October 28.*)

(No. 304.)

Philippopoli, October 18, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith an article which appeared this day in the "Philippoupolis" on the subject of the elections for the Provincial Assembly, which take place to-morrow.

It states, with perfect truth, that, since the Bulgarians are absolute masters of the country, and have at their disposal the civil, military, and judicial authorities of the province, the result of the elections will naturally be prejudicial to the interests of the Turkish and Greek minorities.

In confirmation of the statement that great pressure has been exercised in order to prevent a fusion between the Turks and the Greeks for electoral purposes, I have the honour to transmit herewith the translation of a deposition made in my presence by an influential Turkish Notable of Philippopoli.

Being summoned to the presence of the Bulgarian Metropolitan, Panarctos, he found assembled at the house of the latter many of the leading Bulgarians of Philippopoli, including M. J. Grueff, Director of Public Instruction, and it appears that, when the Metropolitan found that the Turkish Notable was disinclined to induce his co-religionists to vote with the Bulgarian party, threats were used to the effect that the Turkish population would suffer still more than at present if the Turkish vote were not given for M. Kessiakoff, ex-temporary Director of Justice.

The Turks and Greeks of Philippopoli had, meanwhile, agreed that they would join in electing the same candidate, and as, owing to the forced emigration of the upper class

Mussulmans, the Turks had no resident candidate to propose for election, it was resolved that Halim Bey, a landed proprietor of this town, but at present employed in the telegraph department at Constantinople, should be invited to stand for Philippopoli, the Greeks stipulating that, in the event of Halim Bey declining the invitation, or proving to be ineligible, their own candidate, Dr. Vlados, should be elected.

Having been consulted as to whether Halim Bey could claim the right of domicile at Philippopoli by returning to the town within a few days of the election, I explained all the intricacy and vagueness of the law of domicile, and urged that unless Halim Bey threw up his appointment at Constantinople, and returned to Philippopoli with his wife and family, with the declared intention of fixing his residence in this province, his right to the privilege of domicile would be denied, and his election, if effected, would be certainly invalidated.

The Turks, however, instigated partly by intrigues in the direction of sowing dissension between themselves and the Greeks, telegraphed their invitation to Halim Bey, who consequently arrived at Philippopoli four or five days ago, merely on leave of absence.

The time that has passed since his arrival has been spent in negotiations between the Turks and Greeks, the latter insisting on the ineligibility of Halim Bey under Article 70 of the Organic Statute, which requires a candidate to be domiciled in Eastern Roumelia, and the Turks arguing that, since they were more numerous than the Greeks, they had a right to elect another Mussulman if Halim Bey proved to be really ineligible.

The Greeks recriminated that under the original agreement the common candidate was to be either Halim Bey or Vlados, and they very naturally reproached the Turks for wishing at the last moment to seek for another candidate.

I fear that the result of this misunderstanding will be that the Turks and Greeks will vote separately for their respective candidate, and thus give an easy victory to M. Kessiakoff, the Bulgarian nominee.

The candidature of the latter has also been pressed very strongly on the Jews, Armenians, and Catholic Bulgarians.

The Rabbi and other leading Jews were summoned by the Metropolitan, Panaretos, and given to understand that their future position was contingent on their voting for the Bulgarian candidate.

Fearing that, as in other places in this province, the market day might be changed to Saturday, in order to injure them, the Jews gave an evasive, and perhaps conciliatory answer, the result being that during the course of the day one of the Secretaries of the Municipality supplied the Rabbi with 250 voting papers, on which the name of M. Kessiakoff was inscribed, the Jews being at the same time informed that, as the tickets given to them were distinguishable, the character of their votes would be recorded.

I have also learnt that the local gendarmerie has been employed during the day in distributing voting papers bearing M. Kessiakoff's name.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

P.S.—*Midnight.* I learn that the Greeks, seeing the stubbornness of the Turks, and desiring to prevent, in any case, the return of a Bulgarian member for Philippopoli, have agreed to alter their arrangements during the night, with the view of giving as many of their votes as it may be possible to alter at such short notice to the Turkish candidate.

T. M.

Inclosure 1 in No. 367.

Extract from the "Philippoupolis" of October 18, 1879.

Inclosure 2 in No. 367.

Memorandum.

STATEMENT OF YUSSUF AGHA, A TURKISH NOTABLE.—The day before yesterday the Bulgarian Archbishop, Panaretos, called upon Emiz Effendi* and Hadji Ismail Bey,† While at the house of the latter he sent for me. I repaired thither, and found the Archbishop in earnest conversation about the elections with Ismaïl Bey, who appeared to agree with the views and arguments of his visitor. I found that the Archbishop wanted me to use my influence in order to persuade the Turkish electors of the town to vote for the Bulgarians' candidate, Iscroff.* Hadji Ismail Bey joined him in trying to convince me that it would be in the interest of the Turks to follow the course recommended by the Archbishop. But I answered that I could not conscientiously use my influence with the people in such a sense.

Yesterday the Archbishop sent a man to invite me to his house, and I went. I found assembled there Grueff,† Iscroff, the Gueshoffs, Kablishkoff, and other Bulgarian Notables. Panaretos opened the conversation. He said: "It is time, Yussuf Agha, that the Bulgarians and the Turks should forget their differences and become true brethren. The elections will afford a good opportunity for establishing our reconciliation on a firm basis. Vote for our candidate, and the Bulgarians will show you their gratitude in a manner which you will certainly appreciate."

I replied: "This talk about reconciliation is all very well. The Bulgarians and the Turks, through no fault of the latter, have been divided for the past two years. The Bulgarians might have, at any time during that period, brought about a reconciliation with the Turks by granting them justice and equal rights. It is rather too late to think of our uniting with you, now that we are about to have a chance of securing to ourselves a Representative in the Assembly, who will defend our rights and demand redress for our grievances; and it would be too much to expect of us that we should, by voting for a Bulgarian Representative, place ourselves more completely than ever in the power of your people, who have not, up to the present, given a single proof of good-will towards us."

Panaretos then objected: "But you have allied yourselves with the Greeks, and you can gain nothing by such a course, for the Greeks have no power to help you. As to the persecution of which you complain, I admit that some of your people are occasionally ill-treated, but it lies with yourselves to remedy that state of things by loyally voting with us at the coming elections."

To this I replied: "We have no present intention of voting for the Greek candidate. We have our own candidate, Halim Bey, and we shall all vote for him; but, if his election should be invalidated from any cause, we shall then vote for Vlados." (the Greek candidate).

Said the Archbishop: "Vote for us at Philippopoli, and you will not have reason to repent. We will then bring forward Halim Bey as a candidate for Staminaka, where the Greeks at present, having the Turks to back them, are likely to secure their own candidate."

Seeing that I remained deaf to all these offers and representations, the Archbishop grew angry and said: "Well, do as you please, but if you reject my advice, mark my words! it will be so much the worse for the Turks. However," he said, after a pause, "I will give you time to think over what I have said. But I shall expect to have your final answer by to-morrow morning."

I then rose and left.

The above statement was made, through me, to Mr. Michell.

(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Philippopoli, October 14, 1879.

* The Mollah of Philippopoli.
† A Turkish Notable of bad repute among his co-religionists.

* Iscroff Kessiakoff, ex-temporary Director of Justice.
† The Director of Public Instruction.

No. 368.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 28.)

(No. 305.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, October* 18, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship extracts from the local newspapers relating to the progress of "His Highness Prince Alexander Vogorides," through the province which he has been called upon to govern.

Your Lordship will perceive that amidst the adulation that is showered upon Aleko Pasha, and notwithstanding the picture of general happiness and contentment which the Bulgarian correspondents attempt to depict, mention is occasionally made of the destitute and desperate condition of the refugees, Christian as well as Turkish

I may here state that having heard several reports to the effect that immediately after

leaving Philippopoli the Governor-General had put on the uniform of a Russian General officer, I instructed Mr. Consul Brophy to inform me whether there was any truth in those rumours.

In reply, Mr. Brophy informed me by telegraph that Aleko Pasha had arrived at Bourgas in the uniform of a Russian General of Division.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 369.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 28.)

(No. 306. Secret.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, October 18, 1879.*

THE inclosure in my present despatch is the translation of a document which has come into my possession, and which purports to be the original or duplicate of a letter addressed to the "Eagle Committee" at Slivno on the 14th instant and by the "Eagle" or National Committee of Philippopoli, of the seal of which the document also purports to bear an impression.

In support to some extent, of its authenticity, I have obtained from the person by whom it was placed in my hands a written declaration to the effect that it had been delivered to him by the Secretary of the National Committee in this town, who had also exhibited to him the original draft of the letter, signed by M. Grueff, President of the Committee, and Director of Public Instruction, as well as by MM. Kessiakoff, J. E. Gueshoff, C. Hadji Kaltchoff, J. S. Gueshoff, and Matefsky (Secretary), members of that Committee.

The letter announces the receipt of a communication from the Slavonic Committee of Moscow, advising a dispatch of powder and cartridges, and urging the Eagle Committee in Eastern Roumelia to "work as promptly as possible;" and the Central Committee at Philippopoli consequently calls upon all the Sub-Committees to send horses, as secretly as possible, to fetch that fresh supply of ammunition.

The second part of the letter addressed to Slivno, and which, I am assured, is only one of a series of circulars addressed to all the towns in this province, reveals an almost incredible amount of treachery and treason, for it informs the Sub-Committees that the adhesion of M. G. Christowicz, the Secretary-General, to the pan-Bulgarian cause has been purchased at the price of £ T. 10,000, towards the payment of which the local Committees are called upon to contribute their several shares—the share of Slivno being fixed at £ T. 740.

The circular concludes by requiring the Sub-Committees to send a return of the number of men who have been drilled in the use of arms, and to state whether or not they are all supplied with Martini rifles.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 369.

The Eagle Committee of Philippopoli to that of Slivno.

(Translation.)
Gentlemen at Slivno, *O. O. (Eagle Committee), October 4, 1879.*

YESTERDAY a letter arrived from the Moscow Slavonian Committee, and they write that they have sent powder and cartridges, and require us to work as promptly as possible, for the quicker we work the greater the advantage.

In conformity with that letter we acquaint you therewith, and pray you to work quickly, without fail, and to send by the 12th, at latest, thirty-five horses, in order that we may send you the powder and cartridges, as they will reach this town by the 8th; but send the horses as secretly as possible.

With great difficulty we have, at length, thank God, succeeded in buying over M. Christowicz also, with £ T. 10,000, who will accept that money in order to secure his future, for you know that M. G. Christowicz is not one of the wealthy men, and that up to the present day he has supported himself on the salary he received from the Turkish Government. For this reason he accepts the above amount.

You know well, gentlemen, that our nation has no other man like M. G. Christowicz, he is learned, wise, and a diplomatist; consequently the nation had great need of such a man. Now our nation has made a great gain, and we must thank God that the above-mentioned M. G. Christowicz has been appointed President of our Committee, and we inform you thereof. Now, at last, both Prince Vogorides and M. G. Christowicz have become entirely ours, and there now remains nothing but for us to work quickly for the realization of our desires.

Out of the £ T. 10,000 which we shall pay to M. G. Christowicz, the share that falls on your district is £ T. 740, which you are requested, immediately on receipt of this letter, to collect and to send as quickly as possible.

Send us an exact return of the number of thousands of men you have between the ages of 40 and 50, between 30 and 40, and between 20 and 30, who are drilled in the use of the rifle, stating also exactly whether they all have Martinis or not.

(L.S.)
(The seal bears the words: "Seal of the Eagle Committee of Philippopoli.")

To the Eagle Committee of Slivno.

No. 370.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 28.)

(No. 307.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, October 18, 1879.*

THE inclosed extracts from the local journals relate to the condemnation of the editor of the "Philippoupolis," by default, to six months' imprisonment, for an abuse of the liberty of the press, as reported in my despatch No. 298 of the 11th instant.

I have also the honour to forward herewith copies of the correspondence that has passed between the Greek Consul and the Secretary-General on the subject of that condemnation.

In his letter of the 29th September/10th October, the Greek Consul requests that the summons to the editor (who is a Greek subject) to appear before the Court should be addressed to him through the Hellenic Consulate, in conformity with rights established by Treaties in the Ottoman Empire.

In his reply, dated the 14th instant, the Secretary-General denies the right of the editor to claim the benefit of the Capitulations, since, under the Ottoman law, aliens are permitted to publish journals on the sole condition of being assimilated to Ottoman subjects in everything that relates to the Ottoman press laws of 1865; and he maintains that, although Article 40 of the Organic Statute enacts the liberty of the press in Eastern Roumelia, it nevertheless stipulates that "the law represses the abuse of that liberty," the law in question being still that of the Ottoman Empire, of which Eastern Roumelia forms part.

The Greek Consul answered these arguments by stating that the Ottoman press law could not possibly have had in consideration the subsequent public law of Eastern Roumelia, by which the liberty of the press in this province was secured, and that the liberty of the press not being recognized under the public law of the Ottoman Empire, the press laws of 1865 cannot be enforced in Eastern Roumelia, as they would otherwise be in opposition to the spirit of Article 40 of the Organic Statute.

M. Matalas argues, moreover, that the press laws in question relate only to a permission for the publishing of a newspaper, or for the establishment of a printing-press; that they have no reference to editors or to authors of articles; that M. Coumarianos never applied for such a permission (the proprietor of the "Philippoupolis" being a Greek subject resident at Constantinople), and therefore never subjected himself to the laws in question; and, lastly, that he had never divested himself of the privileges that appertain to foreign subjects.

On the above grounds the Greek Consul expresses a hope that the Secretary-General will order the proper authorities to conform to the usages established by Treaty in the communication of any legal instrument whatever to M. Coumarianos; and, in conclusion, he administers a well-merited rebuke to the Secretary-General for a phrase employed by the latter in his letter of the 13th instant, to the effect that it is "not for the Local Government to order, nor for the Consul to advise, the abolition" of an exception to the general Ottoman law on the subject of the press.

M. Matalas denies that he had offered any advice to the Secretary-General, and

insists merely on claiming the application of existing laws in conformity with Treaty rights.

Meanwhile M. Coumarianos is at large; but it is apprehended that the Local Government will carry their persecution of the obnoxious editor to the extent of seizing his person, the expiration of the fifteen days which have been allowed to him for appeal against a sentence which, I must also observe, has, as usual, not been rendered in the name of the Sultan, as required by the Organic Statute.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 370.

Extract from the "Maritza" of October 15, 1879.

SAMEDI a eu lieu devant le Tribunal Départemental de notre ville le procès intenté contre M. Coumarianos, rédacteur du journal "Philippoupolis" pour délit de presse. Nous publions plus loin l'acte d'accusation dressé par le Procureur Départemental, M. Peretz, un jeune avocat Croate, qui a fait ses études à la Faculté de Paris. L'accusé, qui se dit sujet Hellène, n'ayant pas comparu, le Tribunal Départemental, composé de deux Bulgares et un Grec, a condamné M. Coumarianos par contumace à six mois de prison.

"*Acte d'Accusation contre Démètre Coumarianos, Rédacteur du Journal le 'Philippoupolis.'*

"Depuis le rétablissement, dans la province, de l'autorité de Sa Majesté le Sultan, le journal le 'Philippoupolis' s'est donné pour mission spéciale de chercher, avec une insigne mauvaise foi, à discréditer le Gouvernement Local, à l'exposer au mépris et à la haine générale, à exciter les habitants les uns contre les autres, et cela dans le but prémédité de servir des intérêts tout autres que les intérêts communs des habitants de la Roumélie Orientale et de l'Empire Ottoman dont cette province constitue une partie intégrante.

"Le Ministère Public, considérant que le susdit journal, sans tenir compte des avertissements qui lui ont été faits par voie administrative continue, avec un redoublement de violence, à abuser de la liberté de la presse, liberté consacrée par l'Article 40 du Statut Organique; et vu l'Article 334 du même Statut, lequel lui impose plus particulièrement le devoir de veiller à l'exécution des lois intéressant directement l'ordre public: ne saurait s'abstenir plus longtemps de demander la répression de ces abus continus et systématiques de la liberté de la presse.

"L'attention du Ministère Public a été spécialement attirée sur l'article publié par le 'Philippoupolis' dans son No. 61 en Grec et dans son No. 62 en Français, dans lequel article on lit entre autres lignes outrageantes—

"1. Les phrases: 'Les autorités militaires dressent des batteries souterraines contre les autorités civiles. Les fonctionnaires se font à la sourdine une guerre scandaleuse, se calomnient, se tiraillent. Les biens du propriétaire ne sont garantis par aucune loi. Les spoliations, l'incendie, la confiscation, le viol, le rapt, le meurtre, les rixes sanglantes sont autant de maux qui pèsent sur la tête du citoyen. Les préfets sont impuissants à exercer leur autorité,' etc. . . .

"2. L'expression 'Pandémonium infernal,' épithète appliquée à l'organisme tout entier de la Roumélie Orientale.

"Attendu que les phrases et expressions précitées ainsi que l'article tout entier d'un bout à l'autre sont au suprême degré outrageants pour les corps constitués de la province sans exception et surtout pour le Gouverneur-Général;

"Attendu qu'il ressort de la lettre et de l'esprit de ces phrases et expressions qu'elles ont été écrites et publiées dans l'intention bien arrêtée de dénigrer les autorités en général et autorité de Gouverneur-Général en particulier, de jeter le trouble dans les esprits, par conséquent de provoquer des déssordres et de compromettre la tranquillité publique;

"Attendu que les aveux mêmes du Sieur Démètre Coumarianos, un des rédacteurs du journal le 'Philippoupolis,' aveux faits par devant le Juge d'Instruction suivant le Rapport de ce dernier en date du 18 Septembre, 1879, No. 42, établissent que le dit rédacteur est non-seulement responsable de tout ce qui se public dans le journal le 'Philippoupolis,' mais qu'il est encore personnellement l'auteur de l'article incriminé:

"Le Sieur Démètre Coumarianos est accusé:—

"1. D'avoir, dans l'article publié par le 'Philippoupolis' dans le No. 61 en Grec et

dans le No. 62 en Français, offensé le Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie Orientale, un des Ministres de Sa Majesté le Sultan; et

"2. D'avoir dans le même article injurié et diffamé tous les corps constitués de la province; délits prévus par les Articles 16 et 19 de la loi sur la presse.

"Par ces motifs, le Procureur soussigné, en vertu des Articles 11 et 40 du Statut Organique, ainsi que de l'Article 83 de la 11e annexe du même Statut, requiert le Tribunal Départemental de Philippopoli, section criminelle, de faire comparaître à sa barre le susnommé Démètre Coumarianos, rédacteur du 'Philippoupolis,' à l'effet de s'entendre condamner suivant toute la rigueur des Articles précités de la loi sur la presse.

"Fait à Philippopoli, le 25 Septembre, 1879.

"Le Procureur Départemental,
(Signé) "PERETZ.

"Pour traduction conforme:
"Le Secrétaire,
(Signé) "PANTSCHOFF."

Inclosure 2 in No. 370.

M. Matalos to M. Christowicz.

(Traduction.)

Excellence, *Philippopoli, le 28 Septembre*, 1879 (v.s.).

LE Président de la Cour Criminelle de Philippopoli a envoyé directement une citation à M. Démétrius Coumarianos, sujet Hellène, et rédacteur du journal le "Philippoupolis," en l'invitant, comme ce monsieur déclare avoir compris, de comparaître devant le Tribunal mentionné ci-dessus pour être jugé pour une accusation inconnue au susdit M. Démétrius Coumarianos.

Le sujet Hellène, se basant sur les priviléges dont jouissent les sujets étrangers, n'a pas accepté la citation du Tribunal, et a demandé que l'autorité judiciaire lui fasse parvenir toute citation par le canal de son Consulat.

Puisque cette demande de M. Démétrius Coumarianos est conforme aux droits établis par les Traités dans l'Empire Ottoman, je prie votre Excellence de vouloir bien donner aux autorités judiciaires les ordres nécessaires pour qu'ils se conforment aux Traités.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) ATH MATALAS.

Inclosure 3 in No. 370.

M. Christowicz to M. Matalos.

M. le Consul, *Philippopoli, le 1/13 Octobre*, 1879.

J'AI reçu votre missive du 28 Septembre, par laquelle, en m'annonçant que le Président du Tribunal Criminel de cette ville a invité directement le Sieur Démétrius Coumarianos, rédacteur du journal "Philippoupolis," et auteur d'un article incriminé, à comparaître devant le dit Tribunal pour répondre à l'accusation portée contre lui au sujet de cet article, vous approuvez la demande qu'il aurait manifestée de n'être cité que par l'entremise de votre Consulat, vu qu'il est sujet Hellène et que, s'il y a exception à cette règle, suivie dans l'Empire Ottoman pour les délits de presse, cette exception, après l'Article 40 inséré dans le Statut Organique de ce pays, ne subsiste plus, attendu que la loi sur la presse de l'Empire n'est pas en vigueur ici, et vous priez le Gouvernement Général de donner des ordres analogues aux Tribunaux.

Vous me permettrez, M. le Consul, de vous dire franchement que le Gouvernement Général de cette province, ne partageant pas votre opinion sur ce sujet, ne peut accéder à votre demande, ainsi que j'ai déjà eu l'honneur de le dire à votre Drogman, qui était venu avant vous me parler de cette affaire, par cette raison péremptoire que, dans l'Article 3 de la Loi de l'Empire sur la Presse de l'an 1865, il est expressément dit "que les sujets étrangers ne sont autorisés à publier un journal qu'à condition d'être assimilés aux sujets Ottomans en tout ce qui regarde les devoirs et les obligations prescrits par cette loi, ainsi qu'en tout ce qui se rattache à la procédure qui aura lieu d'après elle en cas de contravention ou de délit de presse sous la juridiction exclusive des autorités et des Tribunaux Ottomans."

C'est là apparemment ce que vous entendez aussi par le mot "exception" inséré dans votre missive.

Quant à votre assertion que cette exception ne subsiste plus depuis l'existence de l'Article 40 dans le Statut Organique, je vous demande pardon de la trouver sans fondement et par conséquent sans valeur.

En effet, d'après l'Article 39 du Statut, chacun a le droit de manifester ses opinions même par la presse, mais en se conformant aux lois, aux lois de la presse tout d'abord bien entendu. Or, nous avons vu plus haut ce que dit l'Article 3 de la loi sur la presse dans l'Empire, qui est aussi pour le moment la loi de la Roumélie Orientale, d'après l'Article 11 du Statut.

Et même l'Article 40 que vous citez ne dit pas autre chose, car, en déclarant la liberté de la presse, il ajoute immédiatement que "la loi réprime l'abus de cette liberté." Or, cette loi qui réprime, c'est encore tout d'abord la loi sur la presse, comme nous venons de l'établir.

Donc, l'exception à laquelle vous faites allusion dans votre lettre et que nous rapportons textuellement plus haut, subsiste encore même pour la Roumélie Orientale, qui fait partie de l'Empire Ottoman, et ce n'est pas à nous d'en ordonner l'abolition, ni à vous, M. le Consul, de nous le conseiller.

Au contraire, toutes les autorités, quelles qu'elles soient, doivent les premières donner l'exemple de la plus stricte et rigoureuse observation des lois existantes, car c'est alors seulement que la tranquillité et l'ordre publics peuvent être consolidés et maintenus.

Pour le Gouverneur-Général,
Le Secrétaire-Général,
(Signé) G. CHRISTOWICZ.

Inclosure 4 in No. 370.

M. Matalis to M. Christowicz.

Philippopoli, le 2/5 Octobre, 1879.

Monsieur,

EN réponse à ma lettre du 28 Septembre (v. s.), j'ai reçu votre missive du 1er Octobre (v. s.) par laquelle vous déclarez catégoriquement que la loi sur la presse de l'Empire est en vigueur dans cette province, et que selon l'Article 3 de cette même loi les sujets étrangers doivent se soumettre à la juridiction directe des autorités locales pour les délits de presse.

Ayant parcouru les arguments que vous avancez pour soutenir cette interprétation, je vous prie de bien vouloir me permettre de vous faire les observations suivantes :—

Pendant l'élaboration de la loi sur la presse Turque il n'était pas possible que la Législature eut pour base le droit public de la Roumélie Orientale d'après lequel la liberté de la presse est consacré. Par conséquent la loi sur la presse rédigée sur une base d'un droit public différent de celui qui est en vigueur dans la Roumélie Orientale et surtout basé sur le droit public de l'Empire Ottoman où la liberté de la presse n'est pas reconnu, je crois qu'elle ne peut pas être en vigueur dans la Roumélie Orientale, parce que d'un côté elle ne découle pas du droit commun de cette province et de l'autre ne répond pas à l'esprit du législateur qui, par l'Article 40 du Statut Organique, a reconnu la liberté de la presse dans ce pays.

En ce basant sur ce principe, on peut, je crois, conclure qu'après les stipulations de l'Article 40, la loi sur la presse de l'Empire Ottoman ne peut pas être en vigueur dans la Roumélie Orientale.

Mais sous la supposition que cette loi pourrait avoir une certaine application dans la province, permettez-moi, M. le Secrétaire-Général, de ne pas accepter l'interprétation que vous voulez donner au 3e Article de cette loi.

L'Article en question a un trait tout-à-fait particulier pour celui qui demande une autorisation pour publier un journal ou pour fonder une imprimerie. Il n'y est nullement question des rédacteurs ou des auteurs d'articles. M. Coumarianos n'a jamais été mis sous les dispositions de cet Article. De plus, ce monsieur, étant sujet Hellène, n'a jamais consenti de s'aliéner des priviléges dont jouissent les sujets étrangers. M. Coumarianos, en sa qualité de rédacteur et d'auteur d'articles, a toujours la responsabilité de ceux qu'il a écrits ou déclare avoir écrits dans le journal le "Philippoupolis."

Le Consulat de Grèce ne peut avancer aucune objection au fond de cette question et avoue, de concert avec vous, M. le Secrétaire-Général, que seulement par la sincère application des lois en vigueur dans la province pourrait revenir l'ordre si désiré dans la Roumélie Orientale, à la juste satisfaction et du Gouvernement et du peuple.

Me basant sur cette interprétation je me permets d'avoir la conviction que vous ne voudriez pas vous y opposer et que vous voudriez bien pénétrer dans le sens au moins de l'Article 3 de la loi sur la presse, d'autant plus que ni vous n'avez jamais donné à M. Coumarianos une autorisation pour publier un journal, ni celui-ci ne vous a demandé, comme l'Article en question l'exige. M. Coumarianos est un simple rédacteur des articles ou des nouvelles publiés dans le "Philippoupolis" et pour lesquelles il a déclaré avoir la responsabilité.

J'espère, M. le Secrétaire-Général, que vous voudrez bien donner les ordres nécessaires aux autorités compétentes afin de se conformer aux usages consacrés par les Traités chaque fois qu'il s'agit de communiquer une pièce judiciaire quelle qu'elle soit à M. Coumarianos. Permettez-moi encore, M. le Secrétaire-Général, de vous exprimer mon étonnement pour une phrase dans votre lettre sus-mentionnée, et ainsi conçue: "ce n'est pas à nous d'en ordonner l'abolition, ni à vous, M. le Consul, de nous le conseiller."

La preuve que je n'ai jamais osé vous donner un pareil conseil, c'est que par ma précédente lettre je n'ai demandé autre chose que la simple application des lois en vigueur conformément aux Traités, application que j'insiste par la présente à reclamer de la part des autorités locales.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) ATH. MATALIS.

No. 371.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 28.)

(No. 309.)

My Lord, *Philippopoli, October* 18, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith the translation of a petition which was addressed to Aleko Pasha on the 21st September/3rd October, by the Mussulmans of Carlovo, on the occasion of his Excellency's visit to the latter town.

It complains that, on their return, the refugees found everything destroyed and pillaged by the Bulgarians, the small number of houses left being only habitable in summer; also that the Bulgarians are bringing to Carlovo the former inhabitants of destroyed Bulgarian towns and villages, and even Christian refugees from the Vilayet of Adrianople, and letting to them their own houses, while themselves occupying the houses of Mussulmans.

They also state that notwithstanding their applications to the authorities for justice, and for the restitution of their property, &c., and in spite of their representations respecting the ill-treatment to which they are subjected by the Bulgarian population, no justice has yet been accorded to them, and the consequence is that, unable to reoccupy their houses, they are suffering "the most pitiful misery."

In conclusion, they beg the Governor-General to give the necessary orders for the speedy evacuation of their houses, the restitution of their lands, and the surrender of their share of the harvest, "the local authorities being far from taking action on their just demands."

I have also the honour to inclose the copy of a petition addressed to the Governor-General on the 3rd/15th instant by the two Turkish Mukhtars (Headmen) of the village of Merhanlar in this district, representing that some Bulgarians had broken into the house of Osman, a Turk of that village, and after having beaten the owner, and severely wounded his son Hassan, had carried off Osman, who had not since been heard of, together with £ T. 30, which was all the money he possessed.

A Mussulman petition, numerously signed, has also this day been forwarded to the Sultan, representing the critical position of the refugees on the approach of winter, deprived as they are of their property and of the means of existence, and praying His Majesty "to secure their peace" and come to their aid.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 371.

Petition from Turks of Carlovo.

(Traduction.)

A son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie Orientale.

PAR suite de la dernière guerre Turco-Russe, nous, soussignés habitants de Carlovo, émigrés à Constantinople et dans d'autres pays après avoir restés dans ces pays durant vingt mois, selon la décision des Puissances étrangères, nous nous sommes retournés dans notre patrie pour nous installer et prendre possession de nos maisons, terrains, et nos propriétés, que nous avons trouvés tout détruits et pillés par les Bulgares, une petite partie de nos maisons qui nous restent sont habitables seulement pour la saison d'été.

Nos émigrés continuent à rentrer dans leurs foyers; cependant les Bulgares font revenir les habitants de "Kalofour," "Akdjé-Kilissé," "Derbent-Déré" (ainsi que de Tchorlu du Vilayet d'Andrinople); non contents encore de ces injustices les habitants Bulgares de Carlovo, après avoir loué leurs propres maisons aux Bulgares de ces dits villages, ils habitent dans les maisons appartenant à nos parents, ainsi que dans une partie des maisons où nous habitons, et continuent de nous insulter.

Avons fait une demande à l'autorité d'ici pour nous donner justice et nous rendre nos propriétés ainsi que nos récoltes, et cela selon la décision de la Commission tenue dernièrement à Carlovo; cependant en réponse nous étions maltraités par la population Bulgare, et jusqu'à ce jour aucune justice ne nous a été rendue, et pas même n'avons pu rentrer dans nos foyers, et nous sommes avec nos familles et nos enfants dans les rues souffrant des misères très-pitoyables.

Plusieurs de nous étant des ouvriers cultivateurs, ne possédant pas des bestiaux et outils nécessaires pour pouvoir travailler, et gagner notre pain quotidien, nous nous trouvons sans vivres avec nos enfants.

Comme l'autorité d'ici est loin de donner suite à notre juste demande, nous venons prier humblement votre Excellence de vouloir bien donner le plus vite possible les ordres nécessaires à qui de droit pour faire évacuer nos maisons et nous rendre nos terrains ainsi que la partie de nos récoltes qui nous est due, pour que nous puissions nous installer et connaître nos propriétés.

(Suivent les signatures.)

Le 21 Septembre, 1879.

Inclosure 2 in No. 371.

Petition from Merhanlar.

(Traduction.)

Au Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie Orientale.

DANS la nuit du Samédi, 29 Février, un certain nombre de Bulgares se sont introduits dans la maison du nommé Osman, du village Merhanlar, district de Keupsu, et ont battu et grièvement blessé à la tête son fils Hassan, qu'ils ont laissé dans un état très-grave. Ensuite ils se sont emparés des £ T. 30 que possédait Osman, et non contents de l'avoir cruellement battu, l'ont emmené avec eux, sans qu'on sache jusqu'à présent le sort qui lui a été réservé.

Osman et son fils Hassan ont une nombreuse famille à entretenir, qui, privée de ses soutiens naturels, se trouve être vouée à un état déplorable. Plainte a été portée pour les faits susmentionnés aux autorités de Carlovo; celles-ci, par l'entremise d'un capitaine qu'elles envoyèrent au dit village, en firent répartir les habitants Musulmans dans les villages avoisinants, laissant deux soldats pour surveiller leurs cabanes.

Nous venons exposer ce qui précède à votre Excellence et nous le prions d'aviser à qui de droit.

(Suivent les cachets des deux Moukhtars du village.)

Le 13 Octobre, 1879.

No. 372.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October 28.*)

(No. 255.)

Bucharest, October 18, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the accompanying précis of a speech of M. Boeresco, the Foreign Minister, in defending the Government Bill for conferring certain rights on persons of the Jewish creed.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 372.

Précis of Speech of M. Boeresco in Defence of the Government Bill for amending Article 7 of the Roumanian Constitution, October 13, 1879.

M. BOERESCO says the desire of the nation to recognize the Treaty of Berlin, and to revise Article 7 of the Constitution, has been manifested both by the former and the present Chambers. It is necessary to see how we can conform to the Treaty so as to satisfy the Signatory Powers, without endangering the legitimate interests of the country; the demands of European diplomacy must be taken into account.

The XLIVth Article of the Treaty of Berlin treats, firstly, of political and civil equality; secondly, of liberty of worship; thirdly, of the quality of treatment of all foreigners, without distinction of religion. These two last points are already established by the 11th and 21st Articles of the Constitution, but political and civil equality do not exist in consequence of Article 7. The Protocols to the Treaty of Berlin show that all the Powers were agreed in their views, and their Ministers, all of whom he had visited lately, were unanimous in declaring that we must conform to the Treaty, and that Article XLIV contained not only the enunciation of a principle, but the obligation to put that principle in application; even Russia, who has the same evil to contend with, advised our coming to an understanding with the Powers and executing the Treaty.

A proposed revision must contain two parts then—the enunciation of the principle and the application. The Government project declares the equality of creeds, and the word "acquire" is used to mark that the system adopted is one of naturalization, not of emancipation, which would imply pre-existing rights.

The project contains a complete and efficient enunciation of the principle, as regards the application of the two systems, viz., emancipation or naturalization on a large scale, giving rights to foreign Jews or by categories, was sought by the "Alliance Israélite;" he in his foreign tour had spoken of individual naturalization, but combined with the obligation to put the principle in force immediately in the case of such Jews, Roumanian subjects, who had become assimilated.

The project had been elaborated before his departure; his object had been to explain what the nation could give, "the limit of what was possible." The Armenians were emancipated in 1857, but this project takes a different form; it is our interest that all the different elements of undermentioned nationality should be fused in the mass of the nation; but this must be a gradual process to allow of the Jews assimilating with the nation, otherwise we may be compelled to take a step backwards, as has happened in England, France, Prussia, &c.

Objection has been taken to the term "Roumanian subjects," but Jews who have no nationality and no foreign protection, who are liable to military service and other duties, can only be Roumanian subjects.

They have been differently designated at different times, but the fact remains that people are found of undetermined nationality, and, call them what you will, they are not citizens. They have been found in France, Germany, Switzerland, &c., and in all these States laws had to be passed to regulate their position by assimilating them gradually; we may do the same.

The Government project mentions nothing about the duration of the term of residence (stage) required for this naturalization, but in providing for a dispensation from this term of residence, it shows that such is contemplated; to enter in the Constitution every possible case of exemption would involve the addition of thirty to forty extra Articles: these matters are already provided for by the Civil Code, and bringing them

prominently forward just now might increase our difficulties abroad, for the tendency at the present day is to facilitate naturalization, and our long term of ten years would contrast unfavourably with that of three years in France, and the many cases where naturalization can be granted by the executive authorities.

The first paragraph of the project contains nothing contrary to the Treaty of Berlin, and in nowise endangers the interests of the country. The nation has a right to adopt the system of naturalization in applying the principle of equality; this system best responds to the requirements of the country, and if applied seriously and efficaciously puts us in conformity with the requirements of European diplomacy. In 1865 a *Senatus Consultus* of France declared the Mussulmans and Jews of Algiers to be Frenchmen, but not citizens; we cannot be found fault with for making the Jews liable to conscription, although they are not citizens.

The provision making the possession of rural estates a political right is one of preservation and protection, called forth by our economic position, and cannot be regarded as contrary to modern ideas. As regards paragraph 3, relating to the Dobrudscha, unless some special régime had been instituted all the inhabitants would have been held to be citizens, and this the Government does not think well till they are in a position to be assimilated.

The inhabitants of the Dobrudscha will be Roumanians just as the Algerians were Frenchmen (in neither case citizens); they cannot, therefore, come over and buy land in Roumania proper.

The Dobrudscha is under-populated; it should be colonized as quickly as possible; hence the same restriction as to the purchase of land should not be introduced.

There can be no objection to the Jews buying land in the Dobrudscha, and the more that go there the better.

The fourth paragraph repeals the 8th Article of the Civil Code, which gives the right of option to those born and educated in the country. The Government wishes to suppress this right, and replace it by individual naturalization; otherwise a number of unassimilated Jews will be admitted to Roumanian nationality.

The last paragraph, containing a list of persons to be naturalized at once, is not going outside the limit of the principle of individual naturalization; but, taking the list as a whole, it is a guarantee given to the Powers of the loyalty and good faith of the nation. The Government has selected certain persons whom it considers already assimilated, and if there be mistakes, they can be rectified.

It is no question of emancipation, for these persons' consent is necessary; they must apply for naturalization, and that within one year, or they lose their rights. True, this application comes after the grant, but if France sacrificed two provinces to save the country, surely we can afford to sacrifice a simple form of procedure. If any further proof is wanting that the project is not one of emancipation, it may be found in the fury with which it is attacked by the "Alliance Israélite."

No. 373.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 28.)

(No. 258.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, October* 20, 1879.

I HAVE taken the earliest opportunity possible for transmitting to your Lordship by post an English translation of the Government Bill for amending Article VII of the Constitution, and settling, for the future, the conditions for acquiring Roumanian citizenship and the right to hold property in this country.

This Bill has assumed this, its last shape, out of deference to the prejudices of the minority in the Chambers; the Ministers having ascertained that the Opposition could muster 54 votes against their original project, and that they could not rely on the absolute support of more than 90 members, and, having lost all hopes of gaining over 6 votes to assure the two-thirds required by the Constitution, determined to accept a compromise, which has assumed the form of this present Bill, which was adopted by 133 against 9.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 374.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 28.)

(No. 259.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, October* 20, 1879.

WITH reference to the Bill amending the Constitution so as to admit non-Christians to Roumanian citizenship in future, the principle of individual naturalization having been reluctantly accepted by the Ministers, a great effort was made, but without success, by the opposing parties, to require a majority of two-thirds for every individual case of naturalization.

A similar attempt will be probably made in the Senate.

Those Jews who have served in the army during the late war are to be admitted still to citizenship by a list under the present law.

Several hundred petitions have been presented by native Jews to the Chamber for naturalization, and it is asserted that many more are expected to apply, amongst these some of the leading bankers of this capital.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 375.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 28.)

(No. 260. Secret.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, October* 21, 1879.

SEVERAL extremely delicate subjects of negotiation are, I believe, pending between the Sublime Porte and Roumania, and all these refer to money matters.

I had the honour to report to your Lordship, in a despatch on the 25th August last, that the Sultan claims from this Principality the arrears of tribute up to the date of the signature of the Treaty of Berlin, and that it was proposed to deduct the amount of these arrears from the sum due by the Porte to this Government for the sustenance of Turkish prisoners during the late war, reimbursement of which has been stipulated by a Convention signed between the two Powers as reported by me at the time.

On the other hand, the Government of Prince Charles lays claim to a war indemnity, relying for its pretensions under this head on Article V of the Treaty of San Stefano (3rd March, 1878), "la Roumanie fera valoir ses droits à une indemnité à débattre entre les deux parties," a stipulation which I believe was renewed in the separate definitive Treaty signed later between the two principal belligerents.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 376.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 28.)

(No. 262. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, October* 22, 1879.

THE difficulties in the administration of the Dobrudscha have been felt as increasing greatly of late, and this is due to a variety of causes to which I am as yet only able to allude in general terms, as it is most difficult to arrive at the truth of the conflicting reports which reach Bucharest from that district.

The Bulgarian inhabitants of that province have shown signs of discontent owing to the Government having placed them under the pastoral authority of the Roumanian Bishop at Galatz, as they say they are unwilling to sever their connection with their spiritual chief, the Exarch of Bulgaria.

Amongst the Mussulman population, which was at first delighted to exchange Muscovite for Roumanian rule, there has suddenly sprung up a desire for emigration, which once initiated may assume very large proportions, and deprive this new acquisition even of the Tartar element, the most valuable portion of its agrarian population.

It is possible that the multiplicity of bureaucratic regulations introduced amongst them have contributed to render the new rule less popular than it was at first, but it is

also probable that a general tendency to abandon altogether countries which have passed for ever from Moslem law into the hands of the infidel is the real and prevailing cause which is producing this remarkable exodus.

The desire to emigrate appears to be taking possession suddenly of entire villages, and those who are acting under its influence are then desirous to part on any terms with their lands.

Mahommedan law on the subject of property is extremely complicated for Europeans, and the Roumanian authorities have a not altogether unfounded suspicion that many of those of that creed who wish to take their departure go first to Stamboul and secure thus from the "Defter Haneh" regular deeds (or "Hendjdjeh") for their property to which they had not the same title when the province became Roumanian.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 377.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 28.)

(No. 263.) *Bucharest, October* 22, 1879.
My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 113 of the 14th instant, I have the honour to report that Captain Sale, R.E., has arrived to-night from Constantinople, and that I have handed him the despatches brought by Captain Ball, and have made arrangements as to communicating with him by telegraph, or otherwise, during his stay on the Commission near Silistria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 378.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 28.)

(No. 264.) *Bucharest, October* 23, 1879.
My Lord,

THE discussion in the Roumanian Senate on the Bill amending Article 7 of the Constitution commenced yesterday with a speech of the Metropolitan of Bucharest.

His Eminence defended his country from the accusation of religious persecution, and made a warm appeal to the Members of the Senate in favour of a more liberal policy towards the Jews. He was followed by a distinguished Roumanian poet, M. Basile Alexandri, who is one of the most determined opponents of concessions to persons of the Jewish race in Roumania, and of course opposed to the Bill.

The discussion is to be continued to-day.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 379.

Mr. Gosling to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 28.)

(No. 7.) *Buda-Pesth, October* 22, 1879.
My Lord,

I HAD yesterday the honour to address a telegram to your Lordship in cypher, stating that the speech made by your Lordship at Manchester on the 17th instant had a very good and reassuring effect in this capital.

It has opened the eyes of the public generally to the fact all along disputed, that the occupation of Bosnia and the Herzegovina by Austria-Hungary was directed not against the interests of the Porte but rather against the aggressive ambitions of Russia, and the development of her Panslavist propaganda. It has served, moreover, to inspire Hungarians with a sense of security which would accrue to the Dual Empire from the good-will and moral encouragement of Great Britain.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUDLEY GOSLING.

No. 380.

Mr. Gosling to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 28.)

(No. 8.) *Buda-Pesth, October* 22, 1879.
My Lord,

I FELT it my duty to inform your Lordship yesterday, in a cypher telegram, of the report, delayed in transmission from Nevesinje (Herzegovina), which was telegraphed to the "Pester Lloyd" yesterday, of the agrarian outrages alleged to have re-occurred in that place. Though this report has been partially contradicted by the Vienna press, I have reasons for believing that the state of things in and about that particular locality is far from satisfactory, and it has, moreover, been established beyond a doubt that two agents (said to be Russians) of the Panslavist Committee have for some time been inciting the Christians, if not to open rebellion, at all events to the commission of acts likely to interfere with the peaceful development of the Austro-Hungarian administration of that province, and I further ventured to suggest to your Lordship my being instructed to visit Nevesinje with the view of reporting fully on this subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUDLEY GOSLING.

No. 381.

Captain Sale to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 28.)

(No. 1.) *Therapia, October* 17, 1879.
My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's telegraphic instructions which direct me to proceed to Silistria to take part in an International Commission to meet there on the 27th instant.

I have the honour to report that I leave this for Silistria on Tuesday next, the 21st instant, taking Bucharest *en route* for the purpose of getting my instructions, which go to care of Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General at that place.

I am taking with me Lieutenant Caillard, R.E., who accompanied me to Montenegro, and trust that in doing so I may have your Lordship's approval.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. T. SALE, *Captain, R.E.,*
Commissioner.

No. 382.

Captain Sale to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 28.)

(No. 26.) *Therapia, October* 20, 1879.
My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward, by the Queen's Messenger who leaves Her Majesty's Embassy to-morrow, two maps, which show the work of the Montenegrin Boundary Commission up to date.

The Commission have charged me with the task of seeing these maps reproduced.

I have, therefore, to request your Lordship's sanction to having these maps printed in sufficient numbers to allow of sending ten copies to each of the Commissioners.

The maps are intended to be reproduced by lithography in colours, and not by photography.

I have also to request, in compliance with an arrangement made in the Commission, that ten copies for each of the Commissioners may be sent through the Embassies of their respective countries.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. T. SALE, *Captain, R.E.,*
Commissioner.

No. 383.

Major Gordon to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 28.)

(No. 55.) *Constantinople, October* 20, 1879.
My Lord,

I have the honour to forward, for your Lordship's information, Protocols Nos. 51 to 53 of the Eastern Roumelia Boundary Commission.

I have further the satisfaction to inform your Lordship that the delimitation of the southern frontier of Eastern Roumelia, from the Black Sea as far as the River Arda, has been discussed at an official meeting and accepted with unanimity; the final Act defining the entire length of the frontier will be completed, and I hope signed by all the members of the Commission, on the 25th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. GORDON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 383.

Protocole No. 51.—*Séance tenue le* 24 *Septembre*, 1879, *à Constantinople, à Galata-Séraï.*

Président, M. le Major Gordon.

Étaient présents:

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Capitaine Krahmer.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Capitaine C^te. de Wurmbrand.

Pour la France—
M. le Capitaine Nicolas.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Major Gordon.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Capitaine Tornaghi.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Philippoff.
Adjoint, M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Coummerau.

Pour la Turquie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Chakir Bey.
Adjoint, M. le Capitaine Séïfoullah Effendi.
Secrétaire, Onnik Effendi.

LE Protocole No. 50 est lu et adopté.

M. le Colonel Philippoff met sous les yeux de la Commission les copies photographiques de quelques-uns des levers relatifs à la zone frontière entre la Toundja et l'Arda. Ces documents, joints à ceux que possède déjà le Secrétariat, vont permettre d'établir la carte générale de la frontière entre ces deux cours d'eau; néanmoins il subsiste encore une petite lacune dont le lever ne pourra être fourni qu'ultérieurement.

En ce qui concerne les levers du Rhodope, M. le Colonel Philippoff annonce que les quatre officiers topographes chargés de ce travail sont de retour à Constantinople, mais qu'ils n'ont pu terminer entièrement leur tâche, l'escorte Turque qui les accompagnait s'étant retirée, et les ayant laissés seuls. Les parties inachevées sont situées sur le versant Rouméliote; elles comprennent une superficie totale d'environ 60 kilom. carrés. La ligne-frontière ayant déjà été relevée sur tout son développement, le travail d'achèvement sera relativement facile et n'exigera qu'une semaine au plus, en supposant qu'il y ait deux topographes travaillant simultanément. Il appartient à la Commission de décider s'il y a lieu d'executer ce travail. Toutefois M. le Colonel Philippoff déclare qu'il ne donnera aux topographes l'ordre de retourner sur le terrain, que si l'autorité Turque s'engage à pourvoir à leur sécurité et à leur donner l'escorte et les aides nécessaires.

La Commission étant d'avis à l'unanimité qu'il y a lieu de compléter les levers, M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Chakir Bey déclare qu'il va immédiatement donner l'ordre à M. le Capitaine Séïfoullah Effendi de se rendre sur les lieux avec les deux officiers topographes, et de prendre de concert avec les autorités locales toutes les dispositions nécessaires pour assurer leur protection et faciliter leurs travaux. M. le Capitaine Séïfoullah Effendi aura également pour mission de faire une enquête sur les motifs qui ont décidé l'escorte à se retirer avant l'achèvement des travaux, et une punition sera infligée, s'il y a lieu, à l'officier qui a pris la responsabilité d'une telle mesure.

M. le Président invite M. le Colonel Philippoff à vouloir bien prescrire aux deux officiers topographes qui resteront à Constantinople de s'occuper sans retard de mettre au net leurs levers, et d'en dresser la copie sous la direction du Secrétaire. Il fait observer

qu'il y aurait avantage à commencer le travail par la région du Dospad-Dagh, et à réserver pour la fin la Vallée de l'Arda, qui n'offre qu'un intérêt secondaire.

M. le Colonel Philippoff répond qu'il est prêt à donner des instructions dans ce sens. Toutefois il croit devoir rappeler qu'un lever géodésique de la chaîne du Rhodope a été entrepris en même temps que le lever topographique. Les observations sont terminées, mais il n'en est pas de même des calculs nécessaires à l'établissement du réseau. La Commission est-elle d'avis que, pour dresser la carte de la zone frontière, il y a lieu de faire subir au lever topographique les rectifications nécessaires pour son adaptation au canevas géodésique, auquel cas il conviendrait d'attendre l'achèvement des calculs dont il s'agit; pense-t-elle au contraire qu'elle peut se contenter, pour ce travail, du lever topographique tel qu'il existe actuellement sur les planchettes?

Plusieurs membres émettent l'avis que la carte de la zone frontière n'étant, à leurs yeux, qu'un document explicatif à l'appui de l'acte diplomatique, l'exactitude absolue du canevas qui serait de règle pour une carte topographique ordinaire, n'a dans le cas présent qu'une importance médiocre, surtout si l'on observe que la frontière, dans la région considérée, étant constamment formée par des lignes naturelles, une simple description, sans croquis, suffirait à la rigueur pour la retrouver sur les lieux. Ils ne croient donc pas nécessaire d'utiliser le lever géodésique.

M. le Colonel Philippoff ne partageant pas cette manière de voir, la question est mise aux voix et résolue dans le sens qui précède à la majorité de 6 voix contre une.

(Signé) KRAHMER.
WURMBRAND.
L. NICOLAS.
R. GORDON.
D. TORNAGHI.
PHILIPPOFF.
CHAKIR BEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 383.

Protocole No. 52.—*Séance tenue le* 27 *Septembre*, 1879, *à Constantinople, à Galata-Séraï.*

Président, M. le Major Gordon.

Étaient présents:

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Capitaine Krahmer.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Capitaine C^te. de Wurmbrand.

Pour la France—
M. le Capitaine Nicolas.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Major Gordon.
Adjoint, M. le Capitaine Wolski.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Capitaine Tornaghi.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Coummerau.

Pour la Turquie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Chakir Bey.
Secrétaire, Onnik Effendi.

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Coummerau déclare qu'il assiste à la séance au lieu et place de M. le Colonel Philippoff, qui est souffrant d'une indisposition.

M. le Secrétaire fait connaître qu'il a essayé de combler la lacune qui existe dans les levers à l'ouest de Demirhanli au moyen de la reconnaissance qui a été faite l'année dernière, mais qu'il n'a pu y parvenir d'une manière satisfaisante. Il exprime le désir qu'afin d'éviter toute perte de temps, un officier topographe soit envoyé sur le champ auprès du Directeur du Service Topographique en Bulgarie, afin de prendre copie de la portion de lever qui est indispensable pour compléter la carte de la zone frontière dans la région dont il s'agit.

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Coummerau annonce que ce lever a été réclamé à St. Pétersbourg et à Rustchuk, et que les réponses qui ont été faites étant contradictoires, il n'est pas possible de savoir, pour le moment, où il se trouve. M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Coummerau ajoute que le Colonel Philippoff vient de télégraphier de nouveau pour obtenir une réponse précise.

M. le Major Gordon dit que, dans l'incertitude où l'on se trouve d'avoir ce lever en temps utile, il lui semble préférable de faire compléter la carte sur le terrain par un officier topographe. Il propose de mettre pour ce travail à la disposition de la Commission M. le Capitaine de Wolski.

L'offre de M. le Major Gordon est acceptée à l'unanimité. En conséquence, *M. le Président* prie M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Chakir Bey de vouloir bien demander à son Excellence le Gouverneur du vilayet d'Andrinople de prendre les dispositions nécessaires pour faciliter à M. de Wolski l'accomplissement de sa tâche.

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Chakir Bey répond qu'il va s'empresser de déférer à ce désir.

(Signé) KRAHMER.
WURMBRAND.
L. NICOLAS.
R. GORDON.
D. TORNAGHI.
COUMMERAU.
CHAKIR BEY.

Inclosure 3 in No. 383.

Protocole No. 52.—Séance tenue le 11 Octobre, 1879, à Constantinople, à Galata-Séraï.

Président, M. le Capitaine TORNAGHI.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Capitaine Krahmer.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Capitaine C^te. de Wurmbrand.

Pour la France—
M. le Capitaine Nicolas.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Major Gordon.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Capitaine Tornaghi.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Philippoff.
Adjoint, M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Coummerau.

Pour la Turquie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Chakir Bey.
Adjoint, M. le Capitaine Seïfoullah Effendi.
Secrétaire, Onnik Effendi.

LES Protocoles Nos. 51 et 53 sont lus et approuvés.

M. le Président annonce que les officiers envoyés sur les lieux pour terminer certaines planchettes sont de retour à Constantinople, et que tous les levers nécessaires à l'établissement de la carte sont maintenant au complet.

M. le Commissaire de Turquie communique à la Commission le résultat de l'enquête qui a été faite par M. le Capitaine Seïfoullah au sujet du départ de l'escorte, lequel, d'après la déclaration faite par M. le Colonel Philippoff dans la séance du 24 Septembre, aurait motivé le retour prématuré à Constantinople des Officiers Topographes Russes. Le bataillon qui fournissait l'escorte ayant reçu un changement de destination, celle-ci a dû se retirer avec la portion principale ; mais des dispositions avaient été prises pour la remplacer et c'est malheureusement ce qu'il n'a pas été possible de faire comprendre aux officiers topographes, qui, se croyant abandonnés, sont rentrés à Constantinople. L'affaire se réduit, comme on le voit, à un simple malentendu.

M. le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne demande à M. le Colonel Philippoff si, pendant le cours des opérations, les Officiers Topographes Russes ont essuyé de mauvais traitements de la part des populations.

M. le Commissaire de Russie répond qu'ils n'ont pas été insultés.

M. le Président prie M. le Colonel Philippoff de vouloir bien faire connaître combien de temps il faudra pour achever les copies nécessaires à l'établissement de la carte.

M. le Colonel Philippoff dit que le travail de copie présente des difficultés exceptionnelles, et qu'il ne pourra probablement pas être terminé avant quinze jours ou trois semaines. Mais il ne faudrait pas plus de huit ou dix jours, si la Commission prenait la détermination de réduire la largeur de la zone à 3 kilom.

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Chakir Bey ne pense pas que l'on puisse se contenter d'une zone aussi restreinte ; il est d'avis qu'on s'en tienne à la largeur de 5 kilom., qui a été admise par la Commission, et qui est en moyenne celle des levers. Il offre, pour accélérer le travail, de mettre à la disposition du Secrétariat deux dessinateurs.

La proposition de M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Chakir Bey est acceptée à l'unanimité.

(Signé) KRAHMER.
WURMBRAND.
L. NICOLAS.
R. GORDON.
D. TORNAGHI.
PHILIPPOFF.
CHAKIR BEY.

No. 384.

Major Gordon to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October 28.*)

(No. 56.) *Constantinople, October 20, 1879.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, the following two despatches from Captain de Wolski.

I have no remarks to offer beyond that I am of opinion that Captain de Wolski performed his duty in a most satisfactory manner, and obtained the information on points to which I specially drew his attention.

I venture to take this opportunity of bringing to your Lordship's notice my full appreciation of the zeal and ability displayed by Captain de Wolski whilst serving under my orders, and am assured that no officer could have worked more willingly or better than he has done on every occasion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. GORDON, *Major*,
93rd Highlanders.

Inclosure 1 in No. 384.

Captain de Wolski to Major Gordon.

Constantinople, October 20, 1879.

Sir,

AGREEABLY to verbal instructions received from you on the afternoon of the 20th June, I left the village of Mesek next morning for Philippopoli. I was accompanied by Saifullah Effendi, captain on the Turkish Staff, an officer of the Russian Topographical Staff, Corporal Mill, R.E., and two sappers. My instructions were to proceed to the western limit of the Eastern Roumelian boundary, to commence a reconnaissance sketch of the frontier from Chadir-Tépé, and to work back eastwards to meet the Commission in the neighbourhood of Krushowa-Dagh. The French Commissioner having suggested that, as divided authority might lead to misunderstanding, it would be better to settle before I left camp that the expedition was to be under my orders. Accordingly you saw Colonel Philippow on the subject, and I believe he readily acceded to your request.

Our Consul-General, Mr. Michell, introduced me, on my arrival the same afternoon at Philippopoli, to Aleko Pasha, who gave me an escort of five mounted militia. We started the following afternoon, the 22nd, by train for Tatar-Bazardjik. Next morning, 23rd, I called on the Russian General commanding, who was kind enough to offer us an additional escort as far as the frontier of twelve hussars. Early on the 24th we left Tatar-Bazardjik for the frontier by the direct road across the hills viâ Cepidza and Ortakiöj. Up to the foot of the hills at Cepidza the road is practically level. From

thence to the summit overlooking the Jeli-Dere Valley the road is merely a pony track, excessively steep and rocky. In ascending the horse of one of the Russian escort fell, throwing the man heavily on a projecting rock. He had a gash on the top of his forehead exposing the skull. After his wound had been dressed we sent him back with a comrade to Tatar-Bazardjik.

The two Turkish karoulas or guard-houses on this road had been destroyed by the Bulgarians. The lower one was a substantial three-storied loop-holed building of stone. The descent from the summit to the Jeli-Dere Valley to Ortakiöj is not nearly so steep as on the north side, and the valley here commences to widen out into a fertile plain extending between Ortakiöj, Rakitova, Cepuia, and Kameniça. All the villages in the valley, with the exception of Kameniça, are Turkish (Pomaks). We camped for the night at Ortakiöj. Next day, 25th, we marched to the foot of the hills, about 15 kilometres beyond Cepuia. At this village (Banja Cepuia) there are hot mineral springs and marble baths.

Grastica, the only village marked on the Austrian map on the frontier along the Despot-Dagh, was the point for which we were making. No such village, however, exists, but about 20 kilometres south of the village marked Grastica there is a small village of wooden huts called Krastowa, to which our guide took us next day, 26th. On inquiry we found that the nearest Turkish troops were at Mahomia, distant 2 marches. We sent off at once a letter to the officer commanding, requesting him to send off without delay an escort to Krastowa to replace the Russian and Eastern Roumelian soldiers. On the 27th I commenced operations by measuring a base on Velidza-Tépé, a flat-topped hill commanding the surrounding country. The same afternoon I completed in the field the triangulation of several of the most important points on the frontier within 4 miles. These points the Russian topographer plotted on his plane table, and I desired him to commence sketching by eye the topography on either side of the watershed for a distance of 1 to 2 kilometres. At the same time, I carefully explained to him that we had not time to make an accurate survey, and that a reconnaissance sketch was all that the Commission desired. I started off in the opposite direction sketching. The same evening I found the Russian topographer observing angles of elevation and depression of the several points I had given him, and I found that he had not even commenced to sketch. I remonstrated with him for wasting his time. He said he would commence to-morrow. Next day, 28th, we both started off to fill in the country. On examining the Russian's plane table in the evening, I found to my disgust that he had been working down the Mesta for 5 or 6 kilometres on the Turkish side of the frontier, and had altogether left the watershed, although I had expressly told him never to leave the watershed, but to sketch from it as far as possible. The only portion of the frontier he had sketched was a piece I had myself done the previous day. Progress being hopeless under these conditions, I asked the topographer to state what orders he had received from the Russian Commissioner. He replied that he had orders to execute a survey entirely on his own account, and to fill in about 4 kilometres on either side of the boundary. I again explained to him that the Commission had deputed us to make a reconnaissance and not a survey, for which there was no time and no need, as the line of frontier was a clearly defined watershed. I added that Colonel Philippow had agreed that I was to direct the work. The Turkish officer told him that his instructions were to prevent him sketching the country outside the limits required by the Commission. At last he agreed to work with me provided he received a letter clearing him from all blame in the matter. The same evening a company of Turkish regulars, about eighty strong, marched into camp. Next morning we sent off the Russian and Roumelian escorts, and shifted camp to Abramova, a village marked Grastica on the Austrian map. There is a good road from this village to Sarembeg, the last station on the railway. The Russian topographer had only been able to sketch in a couple of kilometres. As I had fixed the position of all the prominent points on the watershed, we marched on next day, the 30th, to Kustova-Tépé, about 15 kilometres, fixing points as we went along, and intending to sketch the ground on our return.

On the 1st July the sappers measured a base on Kustova-Tépé, and I completed a fresh triangulation, connecting it with our former base. The Russian topographer and I then worked together on my sketching-board. I plotted out all the points he wanted, and he sketched the ground. In this way we did an excellent day's work. Now that he had become so amenable to reason I gave him all the points previously determined, and desired him to work backwards, whilst I went ahead to complete the reconnaissance as far as Chadir-Tépé. The Russian topographer refused to go back, as he had orders to do all the frontier himself.

I told him that if he obstructed the work in this manner we must part company, and deprive him of escort. After some delay he consented to go back with Saifulla Effendi.

I started off with a dozen Turks at midday on the 2nd, leaving the sappers to accompany the Russian topographer.

On the morning of the 5th I returned to Abrainova, having completed a sketch of the country as far as Chadir-Tépé, a distance of about 25 kilom. The country I found extremely difficult. Most of the work had to be done on foot, owing to the rocky and precipitous nature of the ground. There was still a good deal of snow on the higher ranges and in all the northern valleys. I was twice forced to make long circuits to regain the watershed, being stopped by sheer precipices in front of me. The mountain masses of the last 15 kilom. of the frontier, ranging from 6,000 to 9,000 feet, are very grand. The heads of the valleys on either side are precipices, some of them of 1,000 feet, resembling huge craters with one side blown out.

The highest limit of the pine forests being about 5,000 feet, I found great difficulty in choosing a site for camping, owing to the absence of firewood. The Turkish troops with me slept in the open, and it was, of course, absolutely necessary, owing to the bitterly cold nights, to camp near scrub of some kind for their camp-fires. The highest point of the range was about 9,000 feet. Chadir-Tépé, on the Bulgarian frontier, about a mile and a half from its junction with the Eastern Roumelian frontier, is the highest mountain of the Rhodope, and is about 10,200 feet high.

Late in the evening of the 5th I rejoined the main camp in the Alan-Déré, having made a long march of about 40 kilom. I found that the Russian topographer had completed the work up to the commencement of the forests, which for miles ahead were of the densest description, without even mountain-tracks through them, and full of fallen and burnt trees.

Next day, 6th, I measured a fresh base on the neighbouring heights, and connected our last work with points on the watershed. Owing to the number of forest fires I experienced great difficulty in observing. The topographer had done very little, only about 1½ kilom. He stated that it would not be possible to advance more than 1 kilom. a-day, and that when in the forest he saw nothing of the ground on either side of him. Our camp was shifted the same day to the Hau-Despad Valley, where we found tolerably open country.

On the 7th we commenced a fresh triangulation on the opposite heights, but found it quite impossible to see across the valley, owing to the dense fog caused by the burning forests. We spent several hours waiting for a breeze to clear up the view, but the fog did not clear away. The guides told us it would remain so until rain fell. Seeing the hopelessness of trying to make anything of this part of the frontier until rain fell we marched next day for Hau-Despad, where we started a fresh triangulation.

On the 9th and 10th the Russian had sketched in the valley south of the watershed, and was working towards the frontier, when I received orders to rejoin the Commission at Jilandji.

Altogether we had completed about 60 kilom. of frontier, the immediate result of which was to shorten the labours of the Commission in the field by about three days. We might easily have completed as much again had Colonel Philippow kept his word and instructed his topographer to assist me in making the simple reconnaissance the Commission had intrusted us to execute.

I desire to record the great assistance I received from Captain Saifullah, whose knowledge of Russian and Bulgarian were invaluable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. DE WOLSKI,
Captain, R.E.

Inclosure 2 in No. 384.

Captain de Wolski to Major Gordon.

Sir, *Constantinople, October 13, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to report that, agreeably to instructions received from you, I left Constantinople on the morning of the 29th September for Adrianople. Next morning I called on our Consul, Mr. Blunt, who kindly forwarded to the Governor-General, Raouf Pasha, the letter from the President of the Commission, of which I was the bearer. At the same time I telegraphed to Consul-General Michell to inform Aleko Pasha that I had been deputed to complete a small gap in the map of the frontier, and to request that the necessary orders be issued to the outposts on the frontier without delay. Accompanied by Mr. Blunt I

saw the Governor-General at 1 P.M. He told me he had already sent instructions to Mehmet Pasha, the military Governor of Mustapha Pasha, to give me all the assistance in his power. He also read me the telegram he was about to dispatch to Aleko Pasha at Philippopoli.

I left next morning, the 1st October, by train for Mustapha Pasha. On my arrival at 9 A.M. I was received by the Bimbashi of the cavalry escort which was to accompany me along the frontier. I found an escort of twenty-five troopers already detailed as escort, and Mehmet Pasha was most kind in his offers of assistance.

On making inquiries about Derwish-Tépé, Mehmet Pasha described the state of affairs as most unsatisfactory. The inhabitants had refused to permit Turkish troops even to approach the village, and had forcibly expelled the tax-gatherers. The Commission, they asserted, had demarcated the frontier last year, through the village, which would, consequently, belong to Eastern Roumelia. I explained to Mehmet Pasha that the inhabitants had certainly, at the instigation of the Russian Commissioner, planted posts right inside the village, marking what they claimed as the boundary of lands between the villages of Derwish-Tépé and Sondzak, but that on examination their statements were found altogether false, and that the boundary had been traced about a kilometre east of Derwish-Tépé. As you had desired me to verify, if possible, the frontier line traced on the Russian survey, I suggested to Mehmet Pasha the advisability of his sending a superior officer with me on my return by Derwish-Tépé to Adrianople, to whom I might point out the boundary on the ground. Mehmet Pasha readily acceded to my request, and detailed the commandant of his cavalry to accompany me. I telegraphed to Consul-General Michell to request the Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia to send orders to Sondzak to permit me to examine the frontier, and to furnish me with an escort, adding that I would only remain a couple of hours on the ground.

The same afternoon, the 1st October, I marched along the frontier as far as Jaksibeili-Téké. We passed five Roumelian posts, each occupied by three armed peasants, on the most commanding knolls of the watershed. The first post near Ak-Baba, the hill above Mustapha Pasha, was well inside Turkish territory. I pointed this out to the commandant, who stated that originally it was on the further side of the ravine, and had been shifted quite recently. On making inquiries at the posts we found that no orders had yet been received relative to our arrival. The only Turkish post was at Jaksibeili-Téké, occupied by about a dozen Turkish regulars under a non-commissioned officer. I was informed that for the last month or so no Turk had been allowed to cross into Eastern Roumelia without a pass, but that Bulgarians could cross into Turkey unmolested. I saw myself a Turk on horseback, who rode across the boundary between the two posts, turned back.

From Jaksibeili-Téké we struck off eastwards to the village of Jeni-Bagh, distant about an hour from the watershed. As this was the most central village on the Turkish side I determined to make it my head-quarters.

Next morning, the 2nd October, I crossed into Eastern Roumelia, with an escort of two Turkish cavalry. Although no orders had yet been received at the outposts we were permitted to pass. In the afternoon a non-commissioned officer and two mounted militiamen arrived from Hermanli viâ Mustapha Pasha as an escort.

As regards the completion of the survey, a work which occupied a little over two days, there is nothing of peculiar interest to record.

The Turkish village of Jaksibeili on the Eastern Roumelian side of the watershed, which had been burnt and razed by the Bulgarians after the war, was in the same condition as we saw it last year. The inhabitants, on their return some months ago, had endeavoured to settle on the site of their former village, but owing to frequent incursions of armed Bulgarians they had been obliged to cross the border, where a village of mud and wattle huts had quite recently been erected. The people seemed to be in very straitened circumstances indeed. I saw Turkish women cutting brushwood near the village for their winter's supply, and was informed that the men were working for the wealthy Bulgarians of the neighbouring villages. The headman begged me to interest myself on their behalf. He said that their lands all lay to the west of the frontier, and their wish was to be allowed to cultivate in Roumelia and live in Turkey. I told them to lay their case before Mehmet Pasha, in whom they might have every confidence. As there are numerous Turkish families in the neighbouring villages of Saribunli and Boumardza, in Roumelia, living on friendly terms with the Bulgarians, I have no doubt that when the country becomes more settled the people of Jaksibeili will return to their former village, but in the meantime their lot is a hard one. This harsh treatment of the Turks contrasts most unfavourably with the conciliatory policy of the Adrianople Government, and shows how utterly unfitted these Bulgarians of Eastern Roumelia are to be intrusted with self-government.

At Mustapha Pasha I was introduced by Mehmet Pasha to his Chief of the Police, and to several minor officials—Bulgarians wearing the kalpak. In all the mixed villages I passed through I found both Turkish and Bulgarian headmen; yet a Turk nowadays cannot cross the boundary dividing what is really one Turkish province from another without danger from an armed peasantry posted by the Eastern Roumelian Government along the frontier. Mehmet Pasha, who formerly served with distinction as Colonel in the Russian Cossacks of the Guard, told me he found his position on the frontier so unbearable, owing to the hostile attitude of the Bulgarians, that he had repeatedly asked to be relieved. Again, when I called on Reouf Pasha last month with Major Ardagh, on our return from Samakow, he narrated to us several cases of Turkish soldiers having fallen into the hands of Bulgarians on the frontier. They had disappeared, leaving no trace. These cases, he said, had been officially reported to Aleko Pasha, but in no instance had there been any result.

The Téké of Jaksibeili is a small mosque built by a rich inhabitant of the village on a prominent hillock on the watershed over the tomb of a Saint. The building was partially destroyed by Bulgarians having stolen the timbers of the roof. The tomb has not been damaged. As the Commission stipulated for the Christian chapel on Mount Vosna, it would be but fair to allow this site to belong to Turkey. The road passes below at a distance of 150 yards west of the building, and would form a convenient boundary round the hillock.

Jeni-Bagh is a prosperous village situated in the centre of the territory bounded by the frontier from Mustapha Pasha to Derwish-Tépé. The inhabitants are Turks and Bulgarians in nearly equal numbers. The Commandant, who accompanied me, spoke in very high terms of the Bulgarians of this village, who had protected the Mussulmans, and even taken them into their houses for greater security in the troublous times after the war.

On the afternoon of the 4th I left Jeni-Bagh for Köstikiöj, a march of 1½ hours, where we halted for the night. The village is entirely Turkish. It had been occupied by a Russian detachment during the war. The officer commanding treated the inhabitants very well, and protected them and their village from injury by the Bulgarians.

Next morning (the 5th) we marched eastwards to the frontier at Yenitcheri-Tépé, a distance of two hours. Here we found an escort of five mounted Roumelian militia awaiting us. At this hill, distant about 5 kilom. from the village of Derwish-Tépé, the frontier leaves the watershed, and runs in a straight line to a point on the Sondzak road, about 1 kilom. east of the village of Derwish-Tépé. After taking a few observations, I pointed out to the officer accompanying me the line of frontier traced by the Commission last year. On approaching the village of Derwish-Tépé we were met by the inhabitants of the village, who had turned out *en masse*. The Commandant inquired for the headman of the village, and explained to him that an officer of the Eastern Roumelian Commission wished, in returning to Adrianople, to pass along the frontier. The headman replied by leading us right into the village. The Commandant explained that he preferred passing round the village on the eastern side. On this the villagers became very demonstrative, several of them barring the road. After a deal of shouting and gesticulating, the difficulty was solved by our Eastern Roumelian gendarmerie, of their own accord, dispersing the crowd, and even chasing those who seemed most inclined to give trouble. We now pursued our way along the frontier, the crowd watching us from the heights above the village. On arriving at the vineyards a number of villagers again assembled, but our militia again coming to the front, the ground was cleared. Having completed the examination of the frontier we struck the Adrianople road, and were retiring slowly, when we were overtaken by an officer of Eastern Roumelian militia. He asked us to return, and show him the frontier. The Commandant explained that he had not come for the purpose of marking out the frontier, but only of escorting an officer of the Commission on his way to Adrianople—that we were pressed for time, and that the maps would shortly be ready. The officer galloped off at full speed. Quarter of an hour later, while lunching in a field overlooking the vineyards, we observed a force of militia, 100 to 150 men, many of them mounted, advancing rapidly, apparently with the object of intercepting us. The Commandant at once gave the order to mount, and we retired slowly, the militia being soon lost to sight in a ravine. Had we returned with the officer, possibly the incident might have been an awkward one for us.

We passed a Turkish post on the Adrianople road, about 1½ miles from Derwish-Tépé, and saw in the distance the tents of a company camped about 3 miles from the frontier.

At Mustapha Pasha there is only a force of about 400 men.

I arrived in Adrianople about 9 P.M., remained there the following day to see the

Governor, who, unfortunately, was confined to his house, and left for Constantinople on the morning of the 7th.

Next morning the sketch was handed over to the Russian topographers to join on to their map.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. DE WOLSKY,
Captain, R.E.

No. 385.

Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 28.)

(No. 88.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October 20, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to request your Lordship's instructions with regard to the disposal of the British section of the Asiatic Boundary Commission during the coming winter.

According to your Lordship's most recent instructions it is my duty, directly the Karaourgan question is settled between the Governments, to propose to the Commission that we proceed to the spot in order to demarcate the further trace of the frontier. But as the weather will prevent our proceeding to Armenia until the spring, it would appear to be a useless expense to maintain the Commission here until the open season commences next year. The probable saving to Her Majesty's Government by my returning to England and discharging my staff may be estimated at 1,000*l.*

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. C. H. CLARKE.

No. 386.

Mr. Egerton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 28.)

(No. 662.)
My Lord, *Vienna, October 23, 1879.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's No. 655, forwarding a despatch from Mr. Kirby Green, I asked Baron Calice to-day what was the exact line taken by the Austrian Government in the Gussinje-Plava question.

His Excellency then gave me a detailed account of the late communications which have passed between the Austrian Government and the Porte and with the Prince of Montenegro on the subject, the gist of which is, that to the Porte observance of the Treaty of Berlin and the early cession of Gussinje and Plava is advised, while the Prince of Montenegro is warned to abstain from any attempt to make good his rights by force, or to send any expedition now to those districts.

He told me that up to the present the Montenegrins had so far followed this advice, and that no actual collision had taken place.

As for the exchange of Gussinje for Kuci Kraina, his Excellency did not think that the few villages of the latter district which were left to Turkey at Berlin could possibly be accepted by Montenegro in exchange for Gussinje, which was in every way of superior value.

After this conversation the Turkish Ambassador explained to me that the conflict he alluded to, in speaking to me last week, resulted from a raid of some Montenegrins in the direction of Gussinje, when some Albanians were killed and property destroyed, but there had been no collision as yet between the Gussinje mountaineers and any expedition sent by Montenegro to occupy their district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 387.

Mr. Egerton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 28.)

(No. 672.)
My Lord, *Vienna, October 25, 1879.*

HAVING heard that M. de Novikow had yesterday made the request that a Bulgarian should attend the Arab-Tabia Commission, I asked Baron Calice what answer had been given by his Government?

He said that Baron Haymerle, though he saw no particular reason why a Bulgarian's opinion should be asked respecting a Roumanian bridge, had told the Russian Ambassador that he would not oppose the presence of a Bulgarian with the Silistrian Commission, in case the latter wished any information from him; in fact, in the same position as the Roumanian occupies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 388.

Mr. Egerton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 28.)

(No. 677.)
My Lord, *Vienna, October 25, 1879.*

FOR some time past the newspapers have contained reports of the agrarian disturbances in the district of Nevesinje, mentioned by Mr. Gosling and Consul Freeman.

These reports, both by the Foreign Office and the official press, are qualified as unfounded. Whether they be so or no, it is certain that local disturbances will from time to time arise in the occupied provinces until the Austrian rule be thoroughly consolidated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 389.

Mr. Egerton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 28.)

(No. 171.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 28, 1879.*

I LEARN from fair, but not, I think, quite certain authority, that Count Tornielli failed at Belgrade to obtain from M. Ristich engagement to take part against Austria in case of war.

M. Ristich said that Servian policy was neutral. May I ask that this should be repeated to Bucharest as well as Belgrade?

No. 390.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 28, 10·30 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, October 27, 1879.*

THE following is repetition of my telegram No. 89 of the 24th instant:—

"The Governor-General has removed the Prefects of Philippopoli, Tatar-Bazardjik, and Bourgas, on account of what he saw and heard during his tour. He expresses determination to protect refugees, and says that he will convey it in strong terms to the Assembly. The invitation to Constantinople and the addresses that have been presented to him by Turkish population appear to have frightened and sobered him, and to have brought the Government to a sense of the peril it incurs."

No. 391.

Colonel Siborne to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 28, 1·20 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Galatz, October* 28, 1879, 10 A.M.

IN reply to your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, Germany and Russia, although not bordering on Danube between Galatz and Iron Gates, are riverain States, and will be represented as far as such on Riverain Commission, and are, therefore, more interested than England in Austrian proposal.

No. 392.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 28, 3 P.M.)

(No. 87.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, October* 28, 1879, 12·50 P.M.

I HAVE communicated your telegram No. 65 *en clair*, relative to an admission of the Bulgarian Delegates in the new Commission, to Count Maffei, who told me that, having heard from Italian Ambassador at Vienna that Austrian Government had also assented to it, the Italian Government would now agree.

No. 393.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 28, 5·15 P.M.)

(No. 712.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, October* 28, 1879, 1·30 P.M.

FOLLOWING from Eldridge, dated 27th:—

"With reference to my telegram of the 25th, I have received a letter from Midhat, wholly declining my proposal. His Highness appears to be strongly biassed against the Druses, and in absence of guarantee I do not consider myself justified in modifying my conditions. Situations is grave; troops continually move into Hauran; Druses prepare for resistance."

No. 394.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 29.)

(No. 25. Political.)
My Lord, *Prisrend, October* 8, 1879.

THE Albanian League Committee continue to hold secret meetings in a mosque; and nothing beyond what I have already reported has transpired. But in a day or two I hope to obtain more information.

As an instance of the rough and ready way which these people have of administering justice, I will relate what took place a few days ago, not ten minutes' walk from this town.

A Mussulman seeing a Christian shepherd with a gun over his shoulder insisted on his giving it up, as no Christian, he said, was allowed to go about armed.

The man expostulated, and replied that he was only looking after his master's sheep, and that every shepherd throughout the country carried arms.

At this moment there came by five members of the League, to whom the Mussulman appealed; but they said, "No; every shepherd has the right to carry arms, and we have many Christians looking after our flocks."

The Mussulman, however, refused to give in, and, an altercation having taken place, he was shot dead by the members of the league, who then quietly walked into town to deliberate on the affairs of the country. No further notice was taken.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 395.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 29.)

(No. 26. Political.)
My Lord, *Prisrend, October* 8, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report that I have this day received a telegram from Mr. Green to inform me that your Lordship authorizes me to proceed to Constantinople to confer with the Ambassador.

I think it advisable, however, to defer my departure until something more positive is known respecting the object of the meeting of the Albanian League at Prisrend and its result.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 396.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 29.)

(No. 27. Political.)
My Lord, *Prisrend, October* 9, 1879.

SO many reports are being circulated respecting the intentions of the Albanian League, now assembled at Prisrend, that it is impossible to sift out the truth; but there can be no doubt that important changes are contemplated.

It now remains to be seen what the Porte will have to say in the matter.

Influential Turks frequently call on me, apparently with the view to elicit my opinion as to the proposed changes; but I invariably give them to understand that it is no business of mine, and that I decline to mix myself up in their affairs.

These, however, are unanimous in condemning the Government and its large staff of officials, to whose incapacity and venality they attribute the present decadence of the Turkish Empire, and the anarchy now existing in Albania.

It is evident, therefore, that general dissatisfaction prevails among the Mussulman population, as well as the Christian, and that some changes must take place before long.

A person with thirty years' experience of this country, and universally respected, called on me yesterday. He informed me that a propaganda is extensively carried on by emissaries from Italy, and that a considerable sum of money has been distributed by them.

He also states that when the two delegates from Janina, mentioned in my despatch No. 21 of the 4th instant, called on the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs, they were told that, if ever Albania required a Prince, Italy would always be ready to supply them with one.

These, however, are mere details of doubtful origin, and must be taken for what they are worth; but, to my mind, when put together, if not precursors of coming events, at least they bring to light latent aspirations and intrigues, and therefore merit attention.

From what I have observed, there exist three rival parties contending with each other, each claiming partizans—Russia, Austria, and Italy—the latter being the most popular.

Though many, and among them are to be found Mussulmans, express indifference as to choice, all agree that a struggle ought first to be made for self-government, justice, and liberty, failing which, any alternative would be preferable to a continuation of the present state of things.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 397.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 29.)

(No. 28. Political.)
My Lord, *Prisrend, October* 9, 1879.

THE person who volunteered to impart to me the result of the discussion that is said to have taken place at the first meeting of the Albanian League Committee, reported in my despatch No. 21 of the 4th instant, called on me to-day.

From what he now states the Committee, in consequence of the telegraphic correspondence with Constantinople, have considerably modified their pretensions.

No more, it appears, has been said of a severance of Albania from the rest of the Turkish Empire, and the setting up of a Principality or a Republic; and their aspirations are now limited to an autonomy and a Governor named by the Sultan; but I think they will have to be satisfied with less.

The accounts I received of their first meeting were certainly somewhat startling, but though the result has turned out different, I have no reason to suspect the veracity of my informant, who now states that at the last meeting my arrival formed the subject of discussion, and that it was unanimously decided that the appointment of a British Consul at Prisrend had given general satisfaction.

He further states that a vote was passed to the effect that four of the leading members of the Committee should shortly call on me for the purpose of submitting the result of their deliberations and the measures to be adopted for the administration and general welfare of this province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 398.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 29.)

(No. 29. Political.)
My Lord, *Prisrend, October* 10, 1879.

TO-DAY I received a visit from two persons professing the Greek religion, of which one was a priest.

They had come from Ipek, a town containing 4,000 houses inhabited by Mussulmans, 400 by Orthodox Greeks, and 35 by Catholics, where they said life had become intolerable to the Christian population owing to the treatment they were receiving at the hands of the Turks.

Not a day passes, they say, that the Christians are not beaten and robbed by the Mussulman population; and no Christian ventures out of his house unaccompanied by two or three friendly Turks.

Ten days ago an attempt was made to assassinate the Catholic priest. The house was entered for that purpose, but he effected his escape through a back door.

They stated that during the last three years no less than 126 Christians had been either murdered or wounded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 399.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 29.)

(No. 30. Political.)
My Lord, *Prisrend, October* 10, 1879.

THOUGH on my arrival my position here was far from being secure, I now entertain no fears, so long as I take ordinary precautions; for the frequent intercourse held between me and the Turks has resulted in the establishment of a certain amount of confidence and goodwill.

Only yesterday one of the five Chiefs who called upon me ten days ago returned from Jacova with a present of fruit.

He confessed that the reason of his first coming was to ascertain, for the information of his people, what my business could be here, and that, after our interview and the lengthy conversations we held together, he and his companions returned to Jacova to report the favourable impression I had made upon them, which was received with the greatest satisfaction.

Now, he said, should I feel disposed to pay them a visit, his tribe would rather sacrifice their lives than see me come to harm. No vain boasting, as every one acquainted with the character of these people well knows, for with them a point of honour is far more sacred than anywhere in Europe.

The object of my present despatch, however, has no reference to my own safety, but

that of my Russian colleague, M. Jastrebow, whose position here, as your Lordship may imagine, is anything but enviable.

Many Turks at this place lost relations during the last war, and his presence, therefore, only serves to rekindle feelings that during the last two years had partially died out.

He has had several warnings, and not a night passes without some person prowling about with a hope of shooting him through the window, should he happen to be seen.

On my asking him whether he had brought these facts to the notice of his Government, he replied that, having no influential friends, were he to report them it might be said that he was a coward, and consequently do him harm in his profession.

If I might be allowed to express an opinion, it would be that the great risk he runs here—where his presence is a source of irritation to the population, acting the same as a red cloth held before a mad bull—ought to be made known to his Government.

I may possibly be accused of desiring his absence for other motives; but surely I might be credited with sufficient honour for laying aside all political considerations when it is a question of life or death for a fellow-creature and friend.

The authorities here are doing what they can to protect him, but their vigilance may be evaded. If, after a timely warning, therefore, the Russian Government should still consider his presence here indispensable—which it certainly is not—and he should lose his life by the hand of an assassin, surely neither the Turkish Government nor the town of Prisrend can be held responsible; but it might be fairly argued that the Russian Government kept him here for the sole purpose of creating a grievance. His blood in that case will be laid at their door.

I wish to add that the steps I am now taking are quite unknown to M. Jastrebow.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 400.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 29.)

(No. 31. Political.)
My Lord, *Prisrend, October* 11, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report the arrival at this place, on the 9th instant, of Major-General Ahmed Helmi Pasha, the newly appointed Mutessarif, or Vice-Governor, of Prisrend.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 401.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 29.)

(No. 125. Political.)
My Lord, *Scutari, October* 12, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report that the Duke of Wurtemberg, the Austrian Commander-in-chief in Bosnia and the Herzegovina, arrived by appointment at Cettinjé on the 8th instant, and was received with great ceremony and all the honours due to his rank by the Prince and the Montenegrin authorities.

The object of the Duke's visit has not been made public. He received at the Prince's hands the Montenegrin Order, and left the day after his arrival for Cattaro to rejoin his command.

It is said that the visit was connected with the settlement of the Herzegovina and Montenegrin frontiers, and probably the Duke came to some arrangement with Prince Nicholas concerning the treatment of the insurgent bands which still exist in some parts of the Herzegovina, should they attempt to seek refuge in Montenegro.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 402.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 29.)

(No. 126. Political.)

Scutari, October 14, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 122, Political, of the 10th instant, I have the honour to report that, according to accounts coming from Cettinjé, the Montenegrins have occupied the Goussinjé-Plava territory ceded to them by the Treaty of Berlin; but I believe that really they have only made an advance to some commanding positions above Goussinjé, where they are collecting their forces, provisions, and other munitions of war.

Messengers have arrived here from Ali Pasha of Goussinjé, appealing for assistance, and stating that all volunteers will be armed and liberally supplied with food. Although meetings have been held in the mosques to consider the summons, none but some notoriously turbulent individuals have shown any signs of going to the rescue, and it is said that equal indifference is being evinced by other important neighbouring districts, such as Ipek and Jacova.

Should, however, any skirmishes of doubtful result occur between the Goussiniotes and the Montenegrins, then a sudden flame of enthusiasm would probably burst out, to die away as soon as the inclemencies of the winter climate of Goussinjé and the promises of Ali Pasha had been put to the test by the volunteers.

The entry into possession of Goussinjé-Plava by the Montenegrins in the manner now presaged will remove a serious obstacle from the path of the Boundary Commission; but, on the other hand, the Montenegrins will ignore, and probably with impunity, the claim of the Turks for the retrocession of the Kucka-Kraina.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 403.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 29.)

(No. 127. Political.)

Scutari, October 15, 1879.

My Lord,

ALTHOUGH from time to time during the past three years and a half of insurrection, war, and political commotion, I have had the honour of reporting on the foreign influences at work in these provinces, I now venture to supplement Mr. St. John's very interesting despatch No. 27 of the 9th instant on the same subject, with a few remarks of my own.

I have frequently been assured, and lately with considerable persistence, that Austrian and Italian money is employed in pushing the causes of the respective Governments in Albania. I have not been able to verify these assertions, although I am told that certain native Christian merchants have drawn bills on houses in Trieste, indorsed in favour of local Chiefs, for much larger sums than their legitimate business justifies.

In north and north-east Albania the distribution of even small sums of money would immediately become known, as proved the case when the Russian and Montenegrin Governments tampered with the loyalty of the Mirdites.

The Austrians are, doubtless, determined to maintain the preponderating influence they imagine they have obtained over the north Albanian mountaineers, through their claim—which the Turkish Government tolerates—to protect specially the Roman Catholic religion.

To the importance attached by the Austrians to this privilege, and their jealousy of all interference with it, I attribute much of the friction between them and the Italians which has arisen in this country.

Most of the clergy in the mountain districts are Italian Franciscan monks, who, before the confiscation of Church property in Italy, were independent of the Italian Government; but since the settlement of that measure they have, in a way, become Italian pensioners, and, as their Order has always been considered in Italy very patriotic and somewhat liberal in its leanings, the Austrians have commenced to believe that the missionaries, instead of preaching in favour of the Power which protects the Church in Albania, have allowed their sympathy for their own country to lead them astray.

Hence these monks have been subjected to many petty annoyances at the hands of the Austrians, which have recently culminated in the departure by the Holy See from the old custom of filling vacancies in the North Albanian Episcopal dioceses from the ranks of the monks who have gained claims to preferment by years of privation among wild tribes, and whose language and customs they have thoroughly mastered. Even the native clergy are now in disfavour with the Austrians, who perhaps fancy their poverty makes them more liable to suspected influences, and none but Dalmatian priests and fanatical Lombard and Tyrolese Jesuits appear at present to be trusted.

These Austrian and Italian rivalries naturally establish what may be called Austrian and Italian parties. The proximity of Montenegro as necessarily gives form to a Russian one. The last, however, can only count among its partizans the Orthodox Slavs, who are a very small minority, composed of a few frontier villages and some scanty communities in the towns, and, perhaps, one or two dissatisfied or needy Albanian Moslem Aghas, who hardly dare divulge their proclivities.

The maladministration of the Turkish Government and the disappointed hopes of speedy amelioration may be said to have made all other Albanians anxiously look forward for a change. The mountaineers, notwithstanding the Austrian suspicions, have for many years heard nothing but their praises from the priests, and now these have been confirmed by the occupation of the Herzegovina and Bosnia, and above all by the entry into the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar, a district almost adjoining their own mountains.

Power demonstrated in this manner naturally casts, with populations hitherto accustomed to believe the Ottoman strength overwhelming, all other influences into the shade. Rumours of the desire of the Italians to supplant the decaying rule of the Turks will hardly be understood by the Roman Catholic mountaineers now that they have almost seen and joined hands with the Austrian battalions, and nothing but the speedy endowment of Albania with the benefits secured for Eastern Roumelia can prevent this important section of the Albanian nation from successfully claiming its incorporation with the Austrian Empire.

These patent facts cause the present popularity of the Italians noted by Mr. St. John.

The Mahommedan Albanians, who are most powerful in north-east and middle Albania, reluctantly admit the atrophy of the Ottoman Administration, and, anxious to stop the advance of the Austrians and thus gain time for forming their nationality into a Principality, they elect to call themselves partizans of Italy, whose little value for enterprize abroad they have very justly measured, but, also, whose power to work upon Austrian susceptibilities they well know and hope may intervene, by raising troubles elsewhere, to clog the progress they dread.

Most of the better educated Christian Albanians share the desire of their Mussulman fellow-countrymen to develop into a semi-independent nation, and, in time, would drive the latter, if the connection prove too heavy a weight, to consent to abandon all but the semblance of a religious supremacy, for themselves alone, by the Sultan.

My conviction is that the Porte has, for the moment, hold of the principal strings acting on the League, but the leaders are, or will be, gradually forced into paying more heed to local aspirations than to instructions coming from the capital.

The rumours put forth by the League, that it has discussed the development of the province into an autonomous State, have been floated to gain the popular support, whilst the next announcement that it would accept whatever organization might be ordained by Constantinople has been given out to propitiate the leading members, in case of need, with the Porte.

In a word, Austrian influence is real among the Roman Catholic mountaineers; Italian support is claimed by other Albanians as a barrier of temporary and purely sentimental strength against the Austrians; and Russian influence is dormant until insurrection or war wakes up its aggressive power.

But, besides, there are two other important elements which could and may exercise their guidance in Albania—the British and the Greek.

If the XXIIIrd Article of the Treaty of Berlin receives its natural extension without a preponderating influence being exercised by some foreign Power at Constantinople Albania will still progress, and much of the present anarchy and uneasiness will disappear; but it will give time to the educational system of propaganda adopted by the Greeks to develop in all but the extreme north of the country, and then naturally, with the Hellenic Kingdom brought so much nearer by the accomplishment of other Articles of the Treaty, a desire would arise among the Albanians for fusion with those who no doubt are ethnically and historically their very close relatives. The North Albanians, owing to the very

strong hold obtained on them by the Roman Church, might not have sufficiently progressed in education when the above should occur to prefer national union to religious separation, and would still elect for incorporation with Austria.

All these possible outcomes of the future I, however, believe could be effectually controlled by England.

Her influence could in Albania, as well as in any other part of the Ottoman dominions, at once become preponderating, and that merely because the inhabitants know and feel that it is never exerted except for their benefit and advantage. At the same time, it cannot be put in motion to any good purpose without a clearly expressed determination to see it through without interruption.

It is this readiness to accept British lead which is already smoothing away before Mr. St. John's difficulties, which at first appeared to him insurmountable, while the lives of the Austrian and Russian Consuls at Prisrend still remain in constant peril.

The Albanians yearn for good government and progress. They are one of the few remaining branches of a decaying State which can recover from the ravages of its canker, and they would gladly avoid severance from the trunk if real help was forthcoming.

This help, of course, means an end to the reign of Pashas who are sent into the country with no aptitudes for governing; an honest application of the stipulations of the XXIIIrd Article of the Berlin Treaty; and a rigorous Consular supervision which the Porte should not be permitted in any instance to treat as irksome and hostile, but invariably accept with consideration and gratitude.

Albania might in such case remain and develop into a tower of strength for Turkey in Europe, and prove a thorn in the side of all greedy neighbours.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 404.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 29.)

(No. 129. Political.)
Scutari, October 18, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that the following described ten battalions of Redifs of the first ban have left Scutari for their native places, to be disbanded:—

3rd Army Corps.—Elbassan; Ochrida; Kula; Manisa; Smyrna; Tireh.

5th Army Corps.—Merasch; Idlib; Latakia; Hamah.

1,500 Turkish liras were sent from Constantinople with which to give these battalions each a month's pay, most of them having forty-three months' arrears due to them. With an additional advance of 250*l.* from the local Treasury, eight of the battalions received the small instalment intended, whilst those of Kula and Tireh had to leave with a promise to be paid on landing at Smyrna.

The troops now left in this province are composed and distributed as follows:—

Scutari.—1 battalion Nizam, 3rd Army Corps; 1 battalion Redif-Kula, 3rd Army Corps.

Tuzi.—1 battalion Nizam, 3rd Army Corps; 1 battalion Chasseurs, 3rd Army Corps; 1 battalion Hondoudieh, 3rd Army Corps; 1 battalion Redif-Djenin, 5th Army Corps.

Alessio, Narache, and San Nicolo.—1 battalion Redif-Tchouroum, 3rd Army Corps.

Dulcigno, Obotti, and Goriza.—1 battalion Redif-Castamboul, 3rd Army Corps.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 405.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul St. John.

(No. 4.)
Foreign Office, October 29, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your despatches to No. 24 inclusive of the 7th instant, and to state to you that your reports upon the condition of affairs at Prisrend and in the neighbourhood of Jacova have been read with great interest by Her Majesty's Government, who fully recognize the gravity of the situation with reference to the dangers by which the Christian population is menaced, as well as your own position personally.

The more recent of your despatches, however, lead me to hope that the crisis may pass over without any serious disturbance such as appeared at one time but too likely to occur.

The language used by you at your interview with the five members of the Albanian League, of which an account is given in your despatch No. 7 of the 24th ultimo, is entirely approved.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 406.

Mr. Adams to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 29.)

(No. 1074.)
Paris, October 28, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of 5·30 P.M. yesterday, M. Desprez informed me to-day that the French Government see no objection to Bulgaria being consulted and represented "officieusement" in the Technical Commission at Silistria on the Arab-Tabia question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 407.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, October 29.)

Sublime Porte, le 16 Octobre, 1879.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

LES informations parvenues à la Sublime Porte continuent à dépeindre sous les couleurs les plus sombres la situation qui est faite aux populations Musulmanes de la Bulgarie et de la Roumélie Orientale. Je ne saurais mieux faire, pour en donner une idée à votre Excellence, que de lui transmettre, ci-joint, copies d'une communication que mon Département a cru devoir adresser à l'Agence de Bulgarie à Constantinople pour lui signaler certains actes commis dans la Principauté contre la personne et les biens des Musulmans, ainsi que de deux Rapports présentés par Sélim Effendi, Secrétaire de la Commission Européenne de la Roumélie Orientale, à la suite d'une mission qu'il a remplie à Tatar-Bazardjik, conjointement avec MM. Michell et Calvert, sur les poursuites et les méfaits dont les habitants Musulmans de cette ville sont l'objet de la part des Bulgares.

Les faits contenus dans ces pièces sont de nature à soulever l'indignation publique et la Sublime Porte, qui connaît les sentiments de justice et d'humanité des Cabinets Européens, est persuadée qu'ils en seront profondément émus. C'est dans cette conviction que je vous prie de les porter à la connaissance de son Excellence M. le Principal Secrétaire d'Etat pour les Affaires Etrangères de Sa Majesté Britannique, en le priant de vouloir bien s'intéresser au sort de ces malheureuses populations.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) SAFVET.

Inclosure 1 in No. 407.

Safvet Pasha to the Bulgarian Agent at Constantinople.

Le 16 Octobre, 1879.

LES informations parvenues à la Porte continuent à dépeindre sous les couleurs les plus sombres la situation qui est faite à la population Musulmane de la Principauté de Bulgarie.

La malveillance des Bulgares contre leurs concitoyens Musulmans ne connaît pas de bornes. Systématiquement persécutés, ces malheureux assistent journellement à la profanation de leurs mosquées, à la destruction ou à la spoliation de leurs maisons, de leurs boutiques, et de leurs écoles. Les cimetières mêmes ne sont pas respectées. C'est surtout à Kustendil que ces actes se commettent le plus ouvertement et le plus fréquemment.

La plupart des mosquées et des tombes de ce district sont en effet, ou brûlées ou

interdites au culte des Musulmans. Il y en a même qui sont transformées en débits de boissons. Les objets sacrés qui s'y trouvent sont pillés et saccagés. Dans les cimetières les pierres tumulaires sont enlevées, les tombes ouvertes et les cadavres exhumés jetés en pâture aux chiens. Dans les champs, comme dans les fermes, les biens des Musulmans sont à la merci des bandes et des paysans Bulgares. Les arbres de leurs jardins et de leurs forêts sont detruits, et lorsqu'ils cherchent à défendre leur propriété, ils payent de leurs personnes.

C'est ainsi que le nommé Emin Mehmed du village de Zghorva, voulant empêcher quelques Bulgares de couper du bois dans sa forêt, a été blessé et mutilé. Le nommé Timour, qui était accouru à son secours, a subi le même sort. D'ailleurs, les assassinats se commettent journellement. Le Cheikh Hadji Ibrahim Effendi entre autres, vieillard octogénaire, ainsi que son épouse, ont été trouvés égorgés dans leur maison à Kustendil. Le même village de Zghorva, ceux de Nefrachentchi et de Planitz sont menacés par les bandes Bulgares qui se disposent à les saccager.

Du reste, ces bandes n'hésitent pas à porter leurs déprédations jusque dans les villages situés au-delà de la ligne de démarcation. Témoin l'invasion par une bande armée venue de la Principauté, du pâturage de Pleva, sis entre Démir-Kissar et Névrecop, d'où quatre-vingt-cinq chevaux, appartenant à des Musulmans, ont été enlevés et amenés au-delà des Balkans, pour être vendus, sous les yeux mêmes de l'autorité, dans le marché de Samakow.

Telle est la situation des populations Mussulmanes de la Bulgarie. Le Gouvernement Impérial a trop de confiance dans les sentiments d'humanité et de justice de Son Altesse le Prince Alexandre pour ne pas espérer que, profondément impressionné lui-même d'un état de choses si déplorable, il ne prenne d'urgence des mesures sévères et énergiques propres à y mettre un terme. C'est dans cette conviction que je viens vous prier de faire dans ce but les communications nécessaires au Gouvernement Princier.

Inclosure 2 in No. 407.

Selim Effendi to Assim Pasha.

Philippopoli, le $\frac{24 \text{ Août}}{5 \text{ Septembre}}$ 1879.

CONFORMÉMENT aux ordres de votre Excellence, je me suis empressé de me rendre, Dimanche, 31 Août, à Tatar-Bazardjik avec MM. Michell et Calvert.

Il m'est pénible de dire que les faits que nous avions à vérifier sont loin d'être exagérés. Avant d'entrer dans le récit des témoignages que j'ai recueillis au sujet des plaintes transmises à votre Excellence, qu'il me soit permis de relater ici brièvement ce que j'ai vu de mes propres yeux. Il va sans dire que je me ferai un devoir de rapporter d'une façon très-impartiale ces événements.

En entrant dans la ville de Tatar-Bazardjik, ce qui frappa avant tout notre attention fut la vue de tous les Bulgares en armes faisant l'exercice par groupes de dix à douze personnes, commandées par des miliciens. Nous vîmes, en outre, défiler devant nous, musique en tête, tambour battant, environ 2,000 hommes appartenant aux sociétés dites "Gymnastiques," qui retournaient du champ des manœuvres sous le commandement de l'officier, commandant la milice de Tatar-Bazardjik. Il paraît que depuis environ un mois et demi toute la population Bulgare du département se réunit en armes, régulièrement deux fois par semaine, pour se livrer à des exercices militaires, et se prépare ainsi à tenir tête aux Musulmans et aux troupes Ottommes dans le cas où celles-ci, conformément aux stipulations du Traité de Berlin, seraient appelées à occuper les frontières de la province.

Pour arriver à notre hôtel nous avons traversé tout le quartier Musulman qui est presqu'entièrement détruit. Nous voulûmes savoir si les Russes étaient les seuls auteurs de cette destruction: les Moukhtars, Imams et Notables que nous interrogeâmes, nous affirmèrent tous que, depuis l'installation de la nouvelle Administration, tous les deux jours un incendie éclatait dans le quartier Musulman; et, fait curieux, sur les 180 maisons brûlées depuis trois mois, il n'y a pas une seule qui appartienne à un Bulgare.

Il nous a été donné de constater nous-mêmes la véracité de ce témoignage unanime des Musulmans. En effet, la nuit de notre arrivée le feu s'est déclaré dans la maison d'un certain Mehmed Agha, sur plusieurs points différents, et l'a consumée, ainsi que plusieurs boutiques, sans que rien ait été fait pour l'arrêter. Dans la nuit de Mardi à Mercredi un nouvel incendie, auquel nous avons également assisté, a éclaté dans les mêmes circonstances, dans la maison du nommé Moustapha Bey que les miliciens venaient d'évacuer, et l'a détruite avec une vingtaine de maisons Musulmanes environnantes.

A Tatar-Bazardjik, la vie des habitants n'est guère plus en sécurité que leurs biens; dans un autre Rapport j'aurai l'honneur de soumettre à votre Excellence les craintes fondées des Musulmans à ce sujet; aujourd'hui je me contenterai de vous signaler ce fait que les deux jours que nous avons passés à Tatar-Bazardjik ont été marqués par trois assassinats.

Le nommé Hadji Ali Ahmed Agha d'Alifaky, revenant de Tatar-Bazardjik, Samedi, 3 Août, à 6 heures du soir, a été attaqué près du pont de Tchermaqueul par trois Bulgares qui l'assommèrent de coups de bâton. Ce malheureux a été rapporté à Tatar-Bazardjik presque mourant. Nous l'avons laissé à l'hôpital où il a dû expirer.

Le Mardi, 2 Août, les cadavres de deux Bulgares assassinés à une heure de distance de Tatar-Bazardjik, près du village Itchkashlieu, étaient exposés devant le local de la police; les corps portaient les traces de deux balles Martiny Henry. Comme on enlève aux Musulmans tout ce qui a l'air d'une arme, il est certain qu'ils ne sont pas les auteurs de ce double assassinat.

Je passe ici sous silence tous les attentats à l'ordre public dont je n'ai pas été le témoin oculaire. Ils font l'objet d'un autre Rapport que je joins à celui-ci. Du reste les faits que j'ai relatés ici prouvent jusqu'à l'évidence que dans le département de Tatar-Bazardjik, comme dans le reste de la province, le désordre et l'anarchie règnent partout.

J'ai, &c.

Inclosure 3 in No. 407.

Sélim Effendi to Assim Pasha.

Excellence, *Philippopoli, le 6 Septembre*, 1879.

J'AI l'honneur de vous soumettre ci-après les renseignements que j'ai recueillis pendant mon voyage à Tatar-Bazardjik avec Messrs. Michell et Calvert, sur les maltraitements auxquels les Musulmans de cette ville sont en butte de la part des Bulgares.

Ces renseignements confirment, malheureusement, ce qui a été rapporté à votre Excellence sur le peu de sécurité dont les Musulmans souffrent, soit dans leurs personnes, soit dans leurs biens, soit dans l'exercice de leur religion.

Tout en étant aussi bref que possible, je m'appliquerai à citer des faits qui ne laisseront aucun doute sur les vexations de toutes sortes subies par les Musulmans.

A peine ces malheureux sont-ils rentrés à Tatar-Bazardjik qu'à la station du chemin de fer ils se voient cernés par les Bulgares qui se jettent sur eux, les fouillent minutieusement pour chercher s'ils n'ont pas eu soin de cacher quelque arme; leurs femmes et leurs filles n'échappent pas à cette investigation; leurs effets sont dispersés aux quatre vents, bienheureux ceux qui, dans cette bagarre, n'ont pas perdu le seul objet de quelque valeur qui leur est resté après tant de vicissitudes. Ces faits seraient, au besoin, confirmés par tous les employés du chemin de fer.

Conduits en ville à la suite de cet examen, ils sont installés dans des khans jusqu'à ce qu'il plaise au Bulgare, qui a occupé leur maison pendant leur absence, de vouloir bien l'évacuer. Il arrivent souvent, il y a cent cas que l'on m'a cités, et témoin les deux incendies auxquels j'ai assisté pendant les deux jours que j'ai passés à Tatar-Bazardjik, et que j'ai eu l'honneur de signaler à votre Excellence dans mon Rapport d'hier, que le Bulgare, en quittant la maison réclamée, ou aussitôt après l'avoir quittée, y met le feu. Je n'exagère rien; je raconte ce qui nous a été rapporté à Mr. Michell et à moi, par un grand nombre de personnes appartenant à différentes nationalités. Du reste, là ne s'arrêtent pas les vexations. Si le Musulman rentré a le malheur d'avoir eu quelques relations d'affaires avec un Bulgare, il est cité par celui-ci pour une ancienne dette; une traite ou une lettre de change signée n'est pas nécessaire pour le faire condamner; il suffit qu'une somme lui soit réclamée pour qu'il soit tenu de la payer, ou bien il est jeté dans la prison des assassins en compagnie d'une foule d'individus arrêtés pour crimes dont il est le souffre-douleur. Nous citerons, entre autres, un Notable Nédjib Agha, lequel, quoiqu'il ait présenté des garanties sérieuses, n'a pas réussi à échapper à une condamnation aussi inique, et a dû payer, pour sortir de prison, l'argent qu'il ne devait pas.

La vie des Musulmans n'est guère plus en sécurité que leurs biens; ils n'osent mettre le pied dans les rues que par groupes de huit à dix personnes. Jusqu'au mois de Ramazan, ils ne pouvaient pas sortir la nuit de leurs maisons. Les insultes et les attaques dirigées contre leurs personnes sont si fréquentes que je renonce à les rapporter. Je me contenterai de signaler le cas du nommé Suléiman d'Alifaky que Mr. Michell et moi avons vu, chez qui les Bulgares ont pénétré dans la nuit du $\frac{31}{19}$ Août, dont ils ont violé la femme et la

fille après l'avoir assommé, lui et son gendre, à coups de bâton. Une des deux femmes a succombé aux suites des sévices dont elle a été victime.

Bien souvent aussi les Musulmans sont maltraités pour tout ce qui touche à leur culte et à ses monuments. Ainsi, le 1er jour de Ramazan, une des trois mosquées qu'ils avaient réparées a été mis en feu, et les deux autres auraient eu le même sort le lendemain si un hasard n'avait fait monter l'Imam au minaret, d'où il aperçut un sac de foin fumant.

Le 3e jour de Ramazan, les mosquées ont été toutes cernées par des Bulgares armés, ainsi que par quelques cavaliers de la milice qui ont défendu l'entrée. Le 8 du même mois des pierres ont été jetées sur les lampions des mosquées et des ordures dans l'intérieur.

A la suite de ce dernier méfait, le Préfet a fait mettre une sentinelle la nuit pour permettre aux Musulmans de faire tranquillement leurs prières.

Tous ces faits sont, Excellence, de notoriété publique à Tatar-Bazardjik. Les Grecs, comme les Musulmans, et même les Bulgares de bonne foi, pourraient les attester, et le Préfet de Tatar-Bazardjik lui-même, interrogé par le Consul-Général d'Angleterre, ne les a pas niés; il a même avoué qu'il ne pouvait pas les réprimer.

J'ai, &c.

No. 408.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, October 29.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 27 Octobre*, 1879.

VOTRE Excellence connaît les difficultés qui ont retardé, et qui retardent encore, la remise de Gussinjé au Monténégro. Les informations parvenues dans ces derniers temps à la Sublime Porte s'accordaient à représenter les populations de ce district comme fermement résolues à opposer une résistance armée à leur annexion à la Principauté. Dans cette situation, le Gouvernement Impérial, encouragé par les dispositions que notre ex-Commissaire Kiamil Pacha avait cru rencontrer auprès du Prince Nicolas, avait proposé à Son Altesse d'accorder au Monténégro, en échange de Gussinjé, le district de Cucikranja; mais la Principauté refusa cet équivalent en déclarant que Gussinjé était un district fertile assez considérable, tandis que Cucikranja était un monticule sans importance. A la suite de ce refus, nous avons cru devoir offrir au Monténégro, indépendamment de Kranja, certaines autres localités de la frontière habitées par des populations non-Albanaises, et plus importantes comme étendue, comme fertilité, et comme population que Gussinjé, dont nous avons déclaré du reste ne vouloir garder que la partie habitée par des Musulmans.

Cette démarche n'a pas malheureusement eu meilleur résultat. Tout au contraire, nous avons appris que les troupes Monténégrines se disposaient à marcher en force considérable sur Gussinjé. Le Ministre du Monténégro, interpellé par moi à ce sujet, en référa à Cettigné, et reçut pour instructions de me déclarer de nouveau que tout échange était inacceptable, en ajoutant que le Prince désirait savoir dans quel espace de temps le Gouvernement Impérial comptait pouvoir remettre Gussinje au Monténégro. Ainsi que je l'ai déclaré à M. Radonitz, en voulant conserver, par voie d'échange, Gussinjé à la Turquie, l'intention du Gouvernement Impérial n'est pas de porter atteinte au Traité de Berlin, mais bien d'éviter une effusion de sang inutile, et les nouvelles complications qui menacent d'éclater de ce côté. Cependant, le Monténégro ayant refusé de se prêter à toute combinaison de cette nature, il ne reste plus à la Sublime Porte, qui est fermement, ainsi qu'elle l'a prouvé, décidée à exécuter loyalement le Traité de Berlin, que de prendre toutes les mesures en son pouvoir pour que la cession de Gussinjé se fasse aussi promptement que possible. Telle étant la décision du Gouvernement Impérial, prise en Conseil de Ministres, je me suis empressé de la porter à la connaissance de M. Radonitz, en même temps que son Altesse le Premier Ministre télégraphiait à son Excellence Moukhtar Pacha pour lui demander quels étaient, à son avis, les moyens les plus propres à atteindre ce but, et dans combien de temps la cession du district en question pouvait se faire. Nous attendons actuellement la réponse de Moukhtar Pacha, et c'est dans ce sens que je me suis exprimé auprès de M. Radonitz.

En portant ce qui précède à votre connaissance, mon but est de vous prier d'en entretenir le Gouvernement près duquel vous êtes accrédité, et l'engager à user de sa haute influence auprès du Gouvernement Princier pour l'amener à patienter pendant quelque temps encore, afin que cette question aussi puisse être résolue sans conflagration et sans effusion de sang.

Le Gouvernement Impérial compte sur vos efforts pour obtenir de son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères une prompte et instante démarche à Cettigné dans le sens susmentionné.

No. 409.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 29.)

(No. 713.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 28*, 1879.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 264, Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs states that the Porte will be willing that a Bulgarian Delegate should be admitted to the Commission, not, however, on the same footing as the Roumanian, but as assistant and dependent on the Turkish Commissioner.

No. 410.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 29.)

(No. 75.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, October 29*, 1879.

YOURS No. 63.

The German Government will not object to Bulgaria being represented on the Technical Commission, "officieusement et à titre de renseignement."

No. 411.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 268.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 29*, 1879, 1 P.M.

I HAVE received your telegram No. 712 with much satisfaction respecting Zeitoun affairs, and approve proposed amnesty.

No. 412.

Mr. Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 29, 5 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, October 29*, 1879, 10·50 A.M.

I HAVE received a very satisfactory communication from the Bulgarian Government regarding alleged outrages on Mussulmans in the Principality, which I will send by next messenger.

No. 413.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1208.) *Foreign Office, October 29*, 1879.

Sir,

IN reply to your Excellency's telegram No. 268 of the 27th instant, I have to convey to you the satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government have learnt the improvement which has taken place in the state of affairs in the district of Zeitoun, and their approval of the amnesty which Saïd Pasha proposes to proclaim to such of the disaffected Chiefs as give in their submission to the Turkish authorities.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 414.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 30.)

(No. 715.) *Therapia, October* 29, 1879.
(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING sent to Eldridge, dated to-day:—

"I am very sorry that Midhat Pasha persists in his attack upon the Druses. If blood is shed it may afford his enemies excuse for bringing about his recall, and I may not be able to help him as I have hitherto done.

"What is the origin and cause of expedition against the Druses? Ahmed Eyoub Pasha is putting the blame upon Midhat Pasha. Warn him if you can, and urge him again, from me, to endeavour to settle matters.

"I give this advice entirely in his own interest."

No. 415.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 30.)

(No. 716.) *Therapia, October* 29, 1879.
(Telegraphic.)

ST. JOHN arrived this morning from Prisrend. Will await your Lordship's instructions.

No. 416.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 30, 9·30 A.M.)

(No. 717.) *Therapia, October* 29, 1879.
(Telegraphic.)

THE newspapers having stated that orders had been given to the English fleet to proceed to Turkish waters, Sultan has sent Munir Bey to ask me for explanations, and to request that I would immediately ask Her Majesty's Government to countermand it, as he would consider this step on the part of England as an occupation of his territory, which there was nothing to justify.

His Majesty says that if I do not hear from you by Friday morning that the fleet will not be sent, he will be compelled to adopt such measures as he may consider necessary to meet this act of hostility on the part of England; he means by this an insinuation that he will appeal to Russia.

I have replied that, on my representing to you, some months ago, that he had promised to introduce the reforms we required into Asia Minor, and to name Baker Pasha to a high command in Armenia, orders had been sent to the fleet not to proceed to Besika Bay, and that, as that promise had not been fulfilled, I could not again interfere; and that he had been warned by you of the consequences if Mahmoud Nedim returned to power. Under these circumstances I could only telegraph to you what he had represented to me, without holding any hope that Her Majesty's Government would reverse their decision. I suggested that if he desired any communication to you it had better be through Musurus Pasha.

I understand the Sultan is very angry, and very much frightened. To Sandison, whom I sent to the Palace to give explanations, he replied that in signing the Cyprus Convention he did so in the conviction that his sovereign rights would be respected, but that as England had now decided to impose upon him the execution of reforms and the appointment of Baker Pasha by coercive measures, he should certainly seek the means of defending his Empire.

No. 417.

Mr. L. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 30.)

(No. 49.) *Belgrade, October* 29, 1879.
(Telegraphic.)

TURKISH Minister at Belgrade has communicated to me confidentially fresh note of the Servian Minister at Constantinople renewing claim for 1,900,000 fr. compensation for Albanian incursions.

Necessity of maintaining force on the frontier, in consequence of delay of Porte in sending troops, and their want of energy when there, are the chief arguments employed in despatch.

Have telegraphed this, and forwarded two despatches by post, as departure of messenger from Bucharest was communicated too late to send bag.

No. 418.

Consul-General Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 30.)

Scutari, October 29, 1879.
(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING telegraphed to Sir H. Layard:—

"A second band of about fifty Mahommedans left Scutari the night before last, and a third to-day for Gussinjé.

"Ali Haidar Pasha is either acting under secret instructions or he is, [as he?] appears to be, a perfect nonentity."

No. 419.

Consul Henderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 30.)

Aleppo, October 29, 1879.
(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE much satisfaction in informing your Lordship that Saïd Pasha has dealt with the Zeitoun affair in an able and conciliatory manner, and that, provided the Sultan accepts his Excellency's recommendations, the troubles at Zeitoun may now be considered at an end.

No. 420.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 30.)

(No. 99. Secret.) *Philippopoli, October* 29, 1879.
(Telegraphic.)

INVESTIGATIONS which I have made lead me to believe that the documents inclosed in my despatches No. 280 and 306 are *pseudo*, although corroborated with the seal and supplied under a written declaration of authenticity by a native on whom the Commission relied for confidential information.

That person has access to a certain amount of information, and may have been imposed on himself.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 421.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1301.) *Foreign Office, October* 30, 1879.

Sir,

WITH reference to Mr. St. John's despatches Nos. 17 and 22 of the 2nd and 6th instant, copies of which he has forwarded to your Excellency, respecting the conduct of Ali Abri, by whose intervention the Catholic Church was saved from pillage and the Christian population from massacre on the occasion of a riot at Jakova, I have to request your Excellency to inform me whether, in your opinion, His Majesty the Sultan would be disposed to confer on Ali Abri, as suggested by Mr. St. John, some

mark of recognition for the valuable services rendered by him on the occasion in question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 422.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 31.)

(No. 32. Political.)

My Lord, *Prisrend, October* 13, 1879.

YESTERDAY Ahmed Helim Pasha, the newly-appointed Mutessarif, returned my visit.

I took the opportunity to speak to him very seriously, not only on the state of the country in general, but also on the position and treatment of the Consular Corps at Prisrend since my arrival.

I told him of the persecutions going on at Jakova and Ipek, and said that he must put a stop to them.

I also complained of the weakness of the authorities in being compelled to warn us not to walk about the streets of the town where, in virtue of our Firmans, we were supposed to have, and had every right to expect, protection.

He said that, having only just arrived, he had not yet had time to make himself fully acquainted with the state of affairs; but that he would make it his duty at once to re-establish order and tranquillity, should there be any occasion for it.

I can scarcely believe, however, that his predecessor, Osman Bey, could have remained with him two days without giving him an insight—unless they consider the present state of things of no consequence, and are perfectly satisfied with it.

He appeared to show such apathy and incredulity at every word I said, that at last I lost all patience, and told him that everything had been reported by me to Her Majesty's Government, and that probably he had not heard the last of it.

This seemed to have the desired effect, and to arouse him from his normal lethargy, for he begged me not to write any more complaints for the present.

The assassination of Mehemet Ali Pasha has inspired Government officials of the highest rank with such terror that two Pashas, it is said, have already refused the post of Prisrend.

The present occupant, on his arrival, dispensed with the customary salute of seventeen guns, and stole in like a thief in the night.

Yet they expect one to believe that the country is perfectly quiet, and that no danger need be apprehended.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 423.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 31.)

(No. 33. Political. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Prisrend, October* 14, 1879.

FROM what I gather, the so-called Albanian League, the members of which were selected and assembled by order of the Turkish Government, has now been dissolved.

The real object of its assembly is not known; but it is evident that the League, on its first arrival, commenced discussions of so revolutionary a tendency (as I have already had the honour to report) that the Government took alarm, and at once ordered the meeting to be dissolved, and its members to return whence they came.

I am now inclined to share the opinion held by persons with whom I have conversed on the subject before my arrival in this country.

The much-vaunted Albanian League never possessed any vitality of its own; it was merely a puppet-show, the strings being pulled at Constantinople.

I have been told that at the Berlin Congress a petition had been presented by the so-called Albanian League. If such was the case, I know the petition to have been drawn up by Nazif Pasha, the present Vali of Pristina, who is said to have organized Mehemet Ali's assassination, and his secretary; the signatures thereto attached being all fictitious.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 424.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 31.)

(No. 34. Political. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Prisrend, October* 14, 1879.

AVAILING myself of your Lordship's permission, I propose to start for Constantinople on the 22nd instant, viâ Salonica.

My presence now cannot afford much protection to the Christian community, whereas at Constantinople I shall be able to give Her Majesty's Ambassador a much clearer insight than by written communications.

The salutary effect produced by the arrival of a Mutessarif is already being felt, and the town of Prisrend is now quiet; but the surrounding country is still in a state of anarchy.

Persecutions and murders, though not so frequent as heretofore, still prevail, and will continue to do so until the Turkish Government can be induced to take matters seriously in hand. In the meantime my two colleagues are busily employed transmitting to their respective Governments details of all the outrages that are being committed. In this they are soon to be assisted, the Russian by a Secretary, and the Austrian by a Student Consul.

Should, on my arrival at Constantinople, Her Majesty's Ambassador desire me to express my views as to the steps that ought to be taken by the Turkish Government, I would propose changes of which the following is an outline:—

That Prisrend should be turned into an eyalet, with a Military Governor, who should be an educated person, both willing and able to fulfil the duties intrusted to him. My reason for a military person is that he would have more authority over the troops, with less chance of corruption.

That 1 battalion should be stationed at Prisrend, 3 battalions at Jakova, 3 battalions at Ipek, 1 battalion at Pristina, 1 battalion at Luma.

That the officers should be paid, well-chosen, and trustworthy, for they would have responsible duties in detachments; and that their men, at all events, should receive rations, otherwise they will do more harm than good.

That Prisrend should be supplied with a Consular Corps, able, with one accord, to make representations to the Governor, who should be given to understand that their complaints shall be listened to and acted upon, for Turkish authorities here can never know the truth either from their own people or from the Christians, as the former will not tell, and the latter dare not.

Were the Turkish Government willing and able to adopt such a measure, and to carry it out conscientiously, an end would be put to the existing anarchy, by which a new lease of the Province of Albania would be secured; failing which, important changes must sooner or later take place, for it is impossible that the present state of things will be allowed to continue with impunity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 425.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 31.)

(No. 128. Political.)

My Lord, *Scutari, October* 16, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that, owing to the Albanian League having commenced to take a more satisfactory view of Mr. St. John's residence in Prisrend, he has thought it best to delay his departure for Constantinople, in order that he may ascertain for what purpose the League has been again assembled.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 426.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 31.)

(No. 130. Political.) *Scutari, October* 20, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that the dispatch of artillery and other munitions of war by the Montenegrins to the neighbourhood of Goussinié continues, and that the Montenegrins assert they have already invested the place.

In Scutari the Mahommedans are collecting privately money and cartridges, and a certain number are pledging themselves to go to the assistance of the Goussiniotes.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 427.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 31, 10 A.M.)

(No. 718.) *Therapia, October* 30, 1879.

(Telegraphic.)

I VENTURE again to say that I think it very desirable that the fleet should not come to Besika in the first instance. I will explain my reasons by messenger. The Sultan has again sent to beg me most earnestly to beseech you to countermand the order to the fleet, as he attaches the greatest importance to its not appearing in Turkish waters. He promises that he will come to a satisfactory understanding with us upon the question of reform if his request be complied with, and he has sent Munir Bey to ask me which are those upon which we insist. I replied that we expected the loyal execution, without further delay, of those promised in Safvet Pasha's note. Sultan is evidently much alarmed, and the Council of Advice and Council of State [*sic*] not to push him too far. I should be very glad if you would let me know at once what I am to say officially with regard to the fleet, as the matter has caused a great sensation here, and I am without instructions on the subject.

No. 428.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 31, 12·45 P.M.)

(No. 719.) *Therapia, October* 30, 1879.

(Telegraphic.)

TURKISH and Greek Plenipotentiaries met yesterday and again exchanged lengthy declarations, the latter maintaining that the crests of the mountains forming the northern boundaries of the valleys of the Kalamas and Peneus should, in conformity with the views of the Congress of Berlin, form new Greek frontier. Turks reject this line, and maintain that they have an equal right to propose crests of the mountains forming the southern boundaries of those valleys; but the Turkish Commissioners informed me that they ended by proposing that inquiries should verify on the spot whether the line suggested by Greeks were practicable or not. Plenipotentiaries to meet again on Wednesday next. They do not appear to have made much progress yesterday.

No. 429.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 31, 3·15 P.M.)

(No. 720.) *Therapia, October* 31, 1879, 1·10 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING received from Vice-Consul Jago, dated yesterday:—

"The conflict between the Druses and military occurred on Tuesday with slight loss on both sides. Hostilities, however, not generally commenced; reinforcements have been asked for."

No. 430.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 31, 6 P.M.)

(No. 721. Most Confidential.) *Therapia, October* 31, 1879, 12·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

I AM informed, on good authority, that French Ambassador has strongly advised Greek Plenipotentiaries to withdraw line they have proposed, which he considers exaggerated, and likely to produce a bad effect on the Powers. Plenipotentiaries were disposed to take his advice, but, on referring to Athens, received orders to adhere to the line. French Ambassador says French Minister for Foreign Affairs has proposed the line of the thalweg of the valleys, while he has suggested a line formed by mountains to the north of it, but considerably less to the north than that demanded by Greece. He has telegraphed to Minister for Foreign Affairs that, unless he receives *carte blanche* to deal with this question, he must decline to interfere any more in it. He has told my informant that in insisting on cession of Janina to Greece he hopes to obtain a compromise by which the whole of Thessaly will be given to her and Epirus be left to Turkey, as the road to Constantinople is not through that province, but through Thessaly and Macedonia.

No. 431.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 31, 10 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, October* 30, 1879.

HALDEFA (*sic*) BEY, the Turkish Representative to Montenegro, has arrived here to-day on his way to his post.

No. 432.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 269.) *Foreign Office, October* 31, 1879, 1·50 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

YOURS No. 716.

Mr. St. John should wait at Constantinople for the present.

No. 433.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 271.) *Foreign Office*, 31, 1879, 7·20 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

THE fleet was, in the first instance, ordered to go, not to Besika but to Vourla Bay. I see no reason for cancelling that order.

Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that conciliation has been carried far enough with the Sultan. Unless we are stern with him he will laugh at us, as he has been doing for some time. He must be made to establish gendarmerie on Asiatic frontiers, and to give independent command to an English officer.

You should represent to him that the feeling in England as to his failure to fulfil his promises is very strong, and is fully shared by Her Majesty's Government; and that much as you sympathize with Turkey you will be powerless to prevent disastrous consequences.

No. 434.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 272. Secret.) *Foreign Office, October* 31, 1879, 7·35 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

THE reason for the order given to the fleet to return to the Ægean was not the Sultan's attitude, but apprehensions that the Russian tinge of the Ministry might, if they were not watched, give opportunity for some trick on the part of Russia.

No. 435.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke.

(No. 19.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 31, 1879, 1·40 P.M.

YOUR despatch No. 88.

Under the circumstances you had better come home for the winter.

No. 436.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Michell.

(No. 65.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 31, 1879, 3 P.M.

IN case it should be thought desirable to publish your Reports upon the atrocities committed on the Turks, I should be glad to know whether, in your opinion, your position would be rendered thereby seriously more difficult.

No. 437.

Mr. Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 31, 12·15 P.M.)

Sophia, October 31, 1879, 9·45 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE communicated your Lordship's telegram regarding admission of Bulgaria to the new Commission officiously, with information, to the Prince. His Highness seemed pleased; he had received a similar communication from the Russian Agent already.

No. 438.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1315. Secret.) *Foreign Office, October* 31, 1879.

Sir,

WITH reference to my preceding despatch of this day's date, I have to state to your Excellency that the immediate reason which, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, has made the return to the Ægean Sea of the British fleet desirable has not been the attitude of the Sultan.

It was thought expedient, in view of the known Russian proclivities of the present Government and the disordered state of things at Constantinople, that English naval force should be within call.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 439.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke.

(No. 79.) *Foreign Office, October* 31, 1879.

Sir,

UNDER the circumstances stated in your despatch No. 88 of the 20th instant, I have to instruct you to discharge the staff which accompanied you as British Member of the Asiatic Boundary Commission, and to return to England for the winter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.